

# SAFETY

## AND COMPLIANCE

### Overhead Guards Protect Forklift Operators

#### Incident One: Stack of Refrigerators Fall on Forklift

**Incident Description:** While attempting to pick up and move a refrigerator from the front row of the stacked units, the operator clamped back too far. The refrigerator was pulled from the second row, which caused two units stacked above to fall forward. One of the falling units stuck and rolled over the top of the forklift's overhead guard and landed on its side next to the forklift. The other unit landed on top of the overhead guard.

#### The Importance of Staying in the Confines of the Lift Cage

- Overhead guards on forklifts are designed to protect operators from falling objects.
- The operator could have sustained serious injuries if he would have exited the forklift when he initially realized the product was beginning to tip and fall.
- Because he stayed in the confines of the forklift, he was not injured.

#### Incident Two: Pallet/Cartons Fall & Strike Forklift Operator

**Incident Description:** While trying to lift a pallet from racking, the forklift operator knocked the raised backrest of the forklift into the crossbeam on the top of the rack. This caused the crossbeam to become dislodged. When the operator lowered the backrest, pallets with cartons fell from the top rack. The forklift operator jumped from the stand-up forklift and ran under the racks. A carton struck the back of the operator's ankle.

#### The Importance of Staying in the Confines of the Lift Cage

- The forklift operator left the confines of the forklift and was struck in the ankle as a result. Had the product struck the operator on the head or another part of the body, it could have been much worse.
- If he had stayed in the confines of the forklift, he would not have been struck by the falling carton.

**Never leave the confines of the forklift when product is falling**