

# Incident Sharing

## ExxonMobil Chalmette Refinery Fork Lift Incident

**Incident Date:** April 23, 2010

**Location:** ExxonMobil Chalmette Refinery

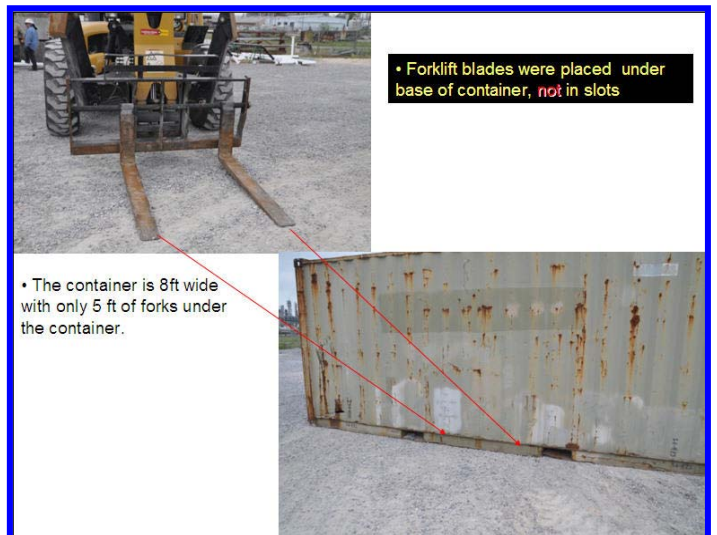
### **Incident Description:**

A contractor was notified that a 20' storage conex on a flat bed truck in the material lay down yard was waiting to be dropped off. Contractor arrived at location with lifting equipment and realized that his forklift attachment was not wide enough for the lifting points of the conex. Also, forks were 5-ft long and conex was 8-ft wide. Conex was cribbed up so forks could be placed between the lifting points. Contractor proceeded to lift conex off the flat bed as the truck pulled out from under the load. As the load was being lowered to the ground, it tilted allowing the conex to slide off the forks, making contact with the ground on the bottom corner and rolling over onto its side.



### **Preliminary Investigation Findings:**

- The Contractor acknowledged that getting the proper attachment for equipment was safer, but has used this lifting practice before and no incident has occurred. *"We've done it this way before and without incidents."*
- JHA was written with intent of offloading from conex lifting points. After realizing that forklift attachment was not wide enough, the JHA was not revised to address the changes in work steps to offload conex and all associated risks/hazards.
- Improper use of lifting equipment:
  - Forks of equipment are 5-ft in length and conex width is 8-ft.
  - Fork lift attachment was not wide enough for the lifting points of conex, so forklift blades were placed under base of conex, not in slots
- Instead of getting the proper forklift attachment to lift conex, contractor opted to proceed with a different unloading method knowing that it would increase risk but under the mentality *"We've done it this way before and without incidents."*



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## Learnings:

1. **Safety is a Core Value and will not be sacrificed to save time or to meet any other objective.**  
Contractor exercised poor safety judgment and sacrificed safety to complete the job in a timely manner.  
**There is always time to do the job safely!**
2. **Importance of JHA development and identification of risks.** The JHA ensures proper description of work to perform and all risk and mitigation steps associated with that activity. If work to be performed changes, you need to STOP and reassess new hazards to complete the job. Update existing JHA or develop a new JHA that identifies all risk and mitigation steps associated with each work activity.
3. **Right tool and/or equipment for the Job.** Always use the correct equipment for the task. In this case, changing the forklift attachment would have prevented this incident and the potential for injury or loss of life. Making changes to "fit" the equipment for the job added risk and was a major contributor to the incident.