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Death prompts Telehandler warning

Workers are being warned by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) not to operate telehandlers if the right-hand side window is missing or broken, following a fatal incident.

A 36 year old man was reported to have been leaning through the broken window aperture when he was crushed by the descending boom. It is the third such fatal accident in the last seven years.

The side window on telehandlers (also known as variable reach trucks) is designed to prevent operator access to the boom. If the glass screen is broken or missing, operators may be tempted to lean out of the window aperture, for instance to adjust a mirror, and may inadvertently lower the boom onto themselves without being able to stop it.

The Fork Lift Truck Association (FLTA) reminds us that **this is the third such fatality in the past seven years** and the HSE has issued a Safety Notice recommending that machines in this condition be removed from use until the window has been replaced, and reminding users of their duty to carry out daily checks of the truck which should include the condition of the cab windows.

Action required:

If the side glass screen is broken or missing the machine should be removed from use until it has been replaced.

Machine owners, users and operators should be warned of the dangers of operating their machines with the side screen broken or missing, and the importance of reporting such damage as soon as it occurs.

Users are also reminded of the importance of carrying out Daily Checks of the condition of their trucks, and that the condition of the cab windows is part of these inspections.