

PRACTICE 5

Situation: You are Chief Safety Officer at Cosmos Transport plc.

Over the past 6 months there have been a number of minor accidents in your Central Warehouse in Exeter. Last week an employee was badly injured when a fork-lift truck reversed into him. Your MD, Sir Humphrey McAulay, has instructed you to go to Exeter and compile a report about this accident with recommendations as to how the safety record in the warehouse can be improved. You use the accident report card below and speak to staff who were present at the time. Here are your notes.

Conversation with Arthur Smedley

At time of accident Arthur Smedley working with Wilfred Smith.

AS said both hurrying to get finished (should have been finished at 18.00). More a case of WS walking into fork-lift truck rather than F-LT backing into WS. (WS had been hurrying down the passage and turned into passage just as F-LT was backing out). Driver had no chance to stop.

Conversation with Warehouse Manager

Warehouse Manager confirmed all staff working overtime because 4 workers off ill. All employees working in warehouse are new, none with company for more than 6 weeks. Not yet received any safety training - no time. Staff turnover high, job poorly paid.

ACCIDENT REPORT CARD

Name of injured person: Wilfred Smith
Position: Warehouse Assistant
Date of accident: 14 April
Time of accident: 18.45

What happened?

A fork-lift truck which was driven by Henry Stevens reversed into Wilfred Smith in passage 3b of the warehouse.

Action taken:

An ambulance was called at 18.48. WS was taken to the Casualty Department of Exeter General Hospital. His right leg was broken in two places.

Write the report.