

# LOADING DOCK SAFETY: REDUCE ACCIDENTS, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

#### Who is Rite-Hite?

- Milwaukee, WI Based Manufacture of Loading Dock and Industrial Door Safety Systems
- Sell Through a Network of Distributors Who Represent Us on an Exclusive Basis in Defined Geographic Territories
- Customers Base Includes:
  - End Users
  - Contractors
  - 3rd Party Logistic Services
  - Any One That Loads and/or Unloads Trucks and Trailers
- Markets: Worldwide
- Mission Statement: Improve Safety, Security and Productivity Through Quality and Innovation



#### Safety in the BIG PICTURE





### Defining the Material Transfer Zone





#### Risk Recognition within the M.T.Z.

Trailer Hazards: Identifying damage during inspections

Problem: Catastrophic trailer separation accidents

Problem: Trailer drop

Problem: Landing gears fail

Problem: Falls from dock platforms and vacant loading docks

Problem: "Dock Shock"

"Best Practices" for dock leveler maintenance

Problem: Hot trailer marker lights can cause fires

Problem: Is water creating a safety concern at your loading dock

Problem: Area protection and pedestrian safety



# High % of accidents take place at the Material Transfer Zone

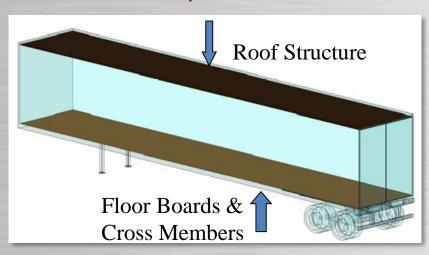
- •Every 3 days someone is killed in a forklift related accident
- •An additional 94,750 forklift related injuries are reported each year.
- •\$135,000,000 in direct costs are incurred due to forklift accidents
- •7% of forklift accidents occur when a lift truck is driven off a loading dock
- •70% of all reported accidents could have been avoided with proper safety precautions



<sup>\*</sup>nist.gov, "Performance Metrics for Intelligence Systems Workshop" 2009

#### Identify Damage During Inspections

Follow Guidelines for Both Exterior and Interior Inspections of Trailer Body!









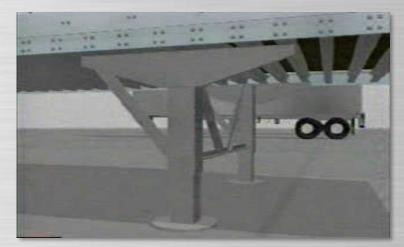
#### **Identify Damage During Inspections**

Watch out for faulty landing gear

"Live Loading" (tractor attached) vs. Dropped Trailers (tractor detached)

Ref. Page 64 if A.I.A.G. M-6



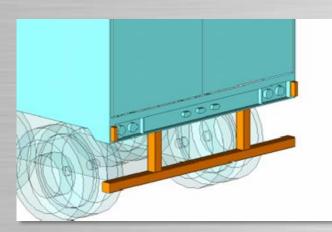


Landing gear integrity



#### **Identify Damage During Inspections**

Rear impact guards



Visually inspect structural integrity





#### **Identify Damage During Inspections**

- Which is considered a "Best Practice" when loading & unloading ?
- Know your trailer design



VS.





#### **Identify Damage During Inspections**

- Air-ride suspensions can lead to vertical and horizontal trailer movement as the forklift enters and exits the trailer
- Vertical trailer movement can cause uneven transition
- Horizontal trailer movement can lead to trailer separation from the dock







**Trailer Creep** 



**Trailer separation from Loading Dock** 



#### **Identify Damage During Inspections**

#### **SECTION REVIEW**

#### "Prevention of Catastrophic Failures"

- Establish checklist and train employees for Exterior/Interior Inspections
- Perform Inspection of cross members, roof structures, floor boards & top/bottom rails
- Don't "ASSUME" someone else has inspected your trailer!





#### **Catastrophic Trailer Separation Accidents**



#### **#1. Premature Departure**

A truck driver mistakenly drives away while a lift truck is entering, leaving, or inside the trailer.





#### Catastrophic Trailer Separation Accidents

#### **#2. Trailer Creep**

A trailer can move substantially under the weight of a forklift entering and exiting a trailer. Fast driving & air-ride suspensions exacerbate the issue.







#### Catastrophic Trailer Separation Accidents

#### **#3. Landing Gear Collapse**

Weak or damaged landing gear gives way and the trailer pitches forward or falls to the side.







#### Catastrophic Trailer Separation Accidents

#### #4. Trailer Pop-Up / Up-Ending



RH\_TrailerPopUp.mpg

<u>Pop-Up:</u> the weight of a forklift sends the rear of the trailer forward and down, causing the nose to rise. <u>Up-Ending:</u> the weight of a lift truck sends the trailer's nose down, causing the rear end to move up and away from the building. Remember, positioning of the rear tandems is important.







Trailer Up-Ending



#### **Catastrophic Trailer Separation Accidents**



#### 1910.178 OSHA guide

(7) Brakes shall be set and wheel blocks shall be in place to prevent movement of trucks, trailers, or railroad cars while loading or unloading.



# Wheel Chocks May Not Prevent Trailer Separation

- False sense of security
- Driver can easily pull over chocks
- Even less effective on snow, ice and wet pavements
- Time consuming
- Often misplaced, lost or stolen









#### **Automatic Vehicle Restraints**

Vehicle Restraints help prevent all types of trailer separation







#### **Automatic Vehicle Restraints**

#### Choosing the Right Vehicle Restraint is Critical

- Part-Time Safety:
  - Vertical barrier vehicle restraints & dropped trailers with RIG bumpers
- All Manufacturers' Vertical Barrier Vehicle Restraints:
  - Won't secure rear of trailer during landing gear collapse or trailer tip over!
- Vertical Barrier Vehicle Restraints Only Address 2 of the 4 Types of Accidents!







#### Some Trailers Don't Have ICC Bars or RIGs



Slide rail liftgate trailer



Tuck under liftgate trailer





#### Wheel Based Vehicle Restraints











#### Trailer Drop

Unstabilized trailers can drop up to 8" with the weight of a forklift.

#### **Trailer drop problems:**

- Back and neck injuries
- Product and equipment damage
- Trailer separation accidents





- Hydraulic cylinders stabilize air-ride suspension trailers to help address horizontal and vertical movement during loading and unloading.
- Smooth transition design minimizes jolts to forklift operators reducing the occurrence of back related injuries.
- Minimizes product damage and wear and tear on other dock equipment components.

#### Stabilizing Vehicle Restraint





#### **Automatic Vehicle Restraints**



OSHA Instruction STD 1-11.7

August 5, 1981

Office of Compliance Programming

Subject: 29 CFR 1910.178(k)(1) and (m)(7): Mechanical Means to Secure Trucks or Trailers to a Loading Dock - Special Addendum

- A. Purpose. This instruction allows the use of a mechanical means which secures trucks or trailers to a loading dock in situations in which they provide the equivalent protection of wheel chocks.
- A positive mechanical means to secure trucks or trailers to a loading dock is allowed provided the system is installed and used in a manner that effectively prevents movement of trucks and trailers during loading, unloading and boarding by hand trucks and powered industrial trucks.
- 2. All of the mechanical equipment shall be installed, maintained and used as recommended by the manufacturer.
- 3. Any damaged mechanical equipment will be removed from service immediately.



### **Landing Gears Fail**



**Landing Gear Collapse** 



#### **Landing Gears Fail**



OSHA guide 1910.178 (k)(3)

Fixed jacks may be necessary to support a semi-trailer and prevent upending during the loading or unloading when the trailer is not coupled to a tractor.



#### **Landing Gears Fail**



Some lighter duty trailer stand units may require two per trailer for greater stability



#### Trailer Stands for Added Measure of Safety



#### Look for:

- ERGONOMIC HANDLES
- 16" Solid Rubber Tires
- 30" X 16" Top Plate
- 16" X 30" Base Plate
- 100,000 lb. Static Load Capacity



# Falls From Dock Platforms & Vacant Loading Docks

January 17, 2017, OSHA Updated Standards Related to "Slips, Trips and Falls" From Elevated Surfaces

Specifically Looking for One of Three Types of Protection in These Areas:

- -Steel Gate
- -Netting Product
- -Harness for the Pedestrian



# Falls From Dock Platforms & Vacant Loading Docks

How do we address the challenge of the open dock door?







#### Safe-T-Lip Levelers



7" HIGH BARRIER



5" HIGH BARRIER

- Automatic roll off protection at the edge of the dock
- Look for: unobstructed "end loading" capability!



#### Safe-T-Gate Barrier Protection









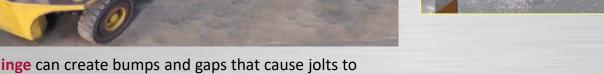
# DOCK SHOCK!







**Rumble strip effect** 



**Rear hinge** can create bumps and gaps that cause jolts to forklift operators, jostle product and damage loading dock equipment.



# DOCK SHOCK!







Front hinge creates bumps that cause jolts to forklift operators, jostle products, and damage loading dock equipment



#### **Smooth Transition Dock Levelers**

- New front and rear hinge design provides smoothest transition from the warehouse floor to the trailer bed
- Reduces Whole-Body Vibration up to 76% percent













#### **BEST PRACTICES:**

#### **Dock Leveler Maintenance**







#### Make certain dock leveling equipment is braced & secured

- Does your company have a written Lock Out Procedure for dock equipment?
- Ensure your personnel's safety with the Safe-T-Strut!
  - Helps comply with OHSA 1910.147





#### Hot Trailer Marker Lights Can Cause Fires



1999 NHTSA ENFORCEMENT OF TRAILER MARKER LIGHTS REQUIREMENT



COMPRESSED INTO FOAM SEAL, LIGHTS CAN REACH 900 DEGREES F IN AS LITTLE AS 20–30 MINUTES.



"It took three fire extinguishers to put it out! We're lucky the whole building didn't catch fire."

- Shipping Manager, CWC Textron



# FireFighter Technology



- Available on Rite-Hite Head Pads, Head Curtains and Side Pads
- Multi-layer foil, heat dissipation system
- Can prevent burning from trailer marker lights





# Is Water Creating Safety Concerns at Your Loading Dock?



- Water damage to products
- Wet, slippery, icy dock levelers



Even with a good dock seal, water can infiltrate dock from top of trailer

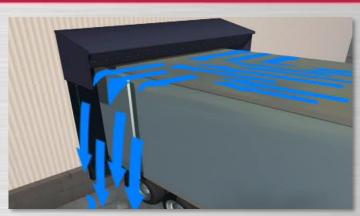


#### RainGuard Header Seal



**Auto-Positioning** 





Tight seal across top of trailer



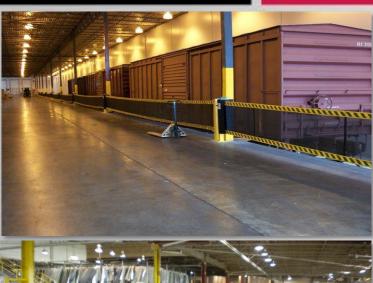
# Area Protection and Pedestrian Safety







## **Barrier Systems Protective Railing**



#### Separates & Defines

- Interior loading docks
- Long walkways
- Large areas





### **Barrier Systems Protective Railing**

#### Modular Design

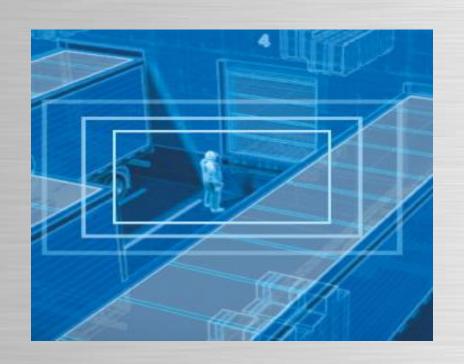
- Rails can be removable
- Easy to measure, layout and install







## Pedestrian Safety Outside the Building

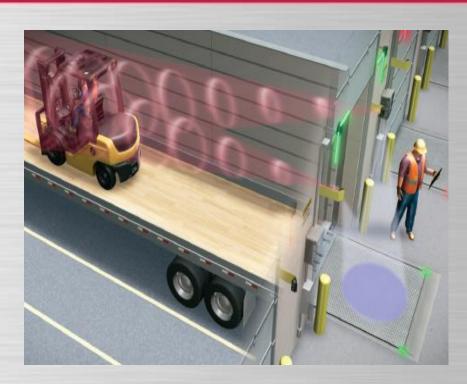






# Pedestrian Safety Inside the Building







### We Can Help Make Your Dock Safe



**Loading Dock Safety Assessments** 

**Loading Dock Safety Presentations** 

**On-Site Training and Support** 

Fly-In Program



#### THANKS TO...

Supporting materials for this seminar were provided by the following groups:

- Pulp & Paper Safety Association
- Automotive Industry Action Group (refer to M-6)





www.ppsa.org/orderform.htm



#### **Contact Us**

30 plus years of Material Handling Industry experience. Available to speak to Plants, Distribution Centers, Trade Associations or Conventions on any of the topics listed above.

Experience working as a liaison between Rite-Hite, our representative enterprise and World Wide customer base of Fortune 1000 Companies.

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# No Visual Cue for Forklift Operator

In many cases it is easy for control boxes and lighting systems to be blocked by:

- Loads
- Fork Trucks
- People
- Other Physical Obstruction







#### Visual Communication - The First Step to Safety





- Corner-Vu and
  Leveler-Vu confirm
  Dok-Lok® engagement
  status to forklift drivers
  as they enter and exit the
  trailer.
- Full-time communication in the M.T. Z. helps keep personnel safe and increases productivity.

