

CASE STUDY 1 – Workplace Accident suggested emergency action required.

A person has been crushed against a wall by a forklift which was backed up into pallet racking. Live 240 volt mains cables from the main electrical switch board have been torn away and are on the ground as a result. The forklift driver had his seat belt on but cannot get out in case he get electrocuted from the live cables. He looks OK. The person who was crushed is conscious but in pain.

Pretend you are the Safety/Emergency Officer. Describe how you would respond to the scenario described above.

Suggested answer.

I am on my way to the scene with pen and note paper. On the way I have called reception to announce on the pa and via mobile and email that all 5 wardens are to report just outside the warehouse entrance door immediately to attend a real emergency situation.

I meet the wardens at the door. We walk to the scene to make an initial assessment of the injuries and damage. Wardens are quickly given assignments; call ambulance, call our electrician and Western Power emergency to rectify electrical hazards, get the our first aid people here, get our OHS officer here, cordon off the area and standby to make sure nobody gets near the site.

Approach injured employees. Advise the forklift driver that medical help is on the way and not to touch anything metal. Approach the other injured party with a first aid officer who begins first aid treatment. Advise the patient that medical teams have been called. I am taking notes all the time and taking pictures.

The OSH Officer is there now to observe and assist in information gathering around the scene.

The ambulance and Western Power arrive. The forklift driver and storeman is now able to be treated and taken to hospital. The area is secured until it can be deemed safe again pending electrical work, replacing racking and cleaning up the area.

Next of kin are advised of the situation and given the address of the medical centre the injured employees have been taken to. The CEO is advised.

The OSH officer makes a complete investigation into the incident including the cause, equipment condition, qualifications of those involved and interviews with all parties.

Worksafe are formally advised via internet or completion of standard form. Insurance company is advised and Workers' Compensation claims are completed as soon as practicable.

The results of the investigation by the OSH officer are completed and tabled for executive meetings.

The final results are brought to the attention of all employees at the next weekly toolbox meeting. This feedback includes the outcome in relation to how and why the incident occurred and what measures have been adopted to prevent a similar incident happening again.

The injured employees are managed pro-actively with a planned return to work strategy in conjunction with the insurance company.

Any training requirements that have been identified by the report are formally put in place.

Conduct 2 week, one month, three month and 6 month review of the incident with the OSH Officer and other parties to ensure the implementation of all recommendations.