

Scaffolding company MD receives suspended jail sentence and fine for maintenance failings

The Managing Director of a scaffolding company has been fined after an employee died when he was struck from behind by a forklift truck.

Leicester Magistrate's Court heard how on 20 June 2016, Shaun Flynn had just finished loading a lorry in the yard of Boss Scaffolding (Northampton) Limited when he was struck from behind by the raised forks of a moving forklift truck. He subsequently died from his injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Boss Scaffolding director Leon Gill and an employee of the company failed to take reasonable care for the health and safety of others who might be affected by the poor management of risks arising from the use of a counterbalance forklift truck in a state of disrepair.

Company director Leon Gill of Bosworth Cottage, Main Street, Little Brington, Northampton, NN74HS pleaded guilty of breaching Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. He was sentenced to 10 weeks imprisonment suspended for eighteen months and ordered to pay £7,000 fine and £45,000 costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jenna McDade said: "This case highlights the importance of regular pro-active maintenance and inspection of work equipment, to ensure equipment does not deteriorate to the extent that it puts people at risk. Sadly the tragic death of Mr Flynn could have been prevented.

"Companies and individuals should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses.
2. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. hse.gov.uk
3. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: legislation.gov.uk/For further information on managing the risks associated with lift trucks can be found here: [Lift trucks – Vehicles at work – HSE](#)
4. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

