

Dock Safety Training



A 3D perspective rendering of a warehouse interior. The scene shows a large, open space with a grey floor and yellow walls. In the foreground, a loading dock area is visible with a white truck partially loaded. Several yellow forklifts are positioned throughout the warehouse, some carrying pallets of goods. In the background, there are large stacks of goods on pallets, some organized into tall racks. The lighting is bright and even, highlighting the various activities and equipment within the facility.

Defining the Material Transfer Zone

- The material transfer zone (MTZ) is the area around a loading dock where equipment is on- or off-loading trailers.
- This area is a high hazard zone, often resulting in injuries and accidents.

High % of accidents within the MTZ

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 immediate 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

Risks within the MTZ

Trailer Hazards:
Identifying damage
during inspections

Problem:
Catastrophic trailer
separation
accidents

Problem: Trailer
drop

Problem:
Insufficient visual
communication

Problem: Landing
gears fail

Problem: Falls from
dock platforms and
vacant loading
docks

Problem: "Dock
Shock"

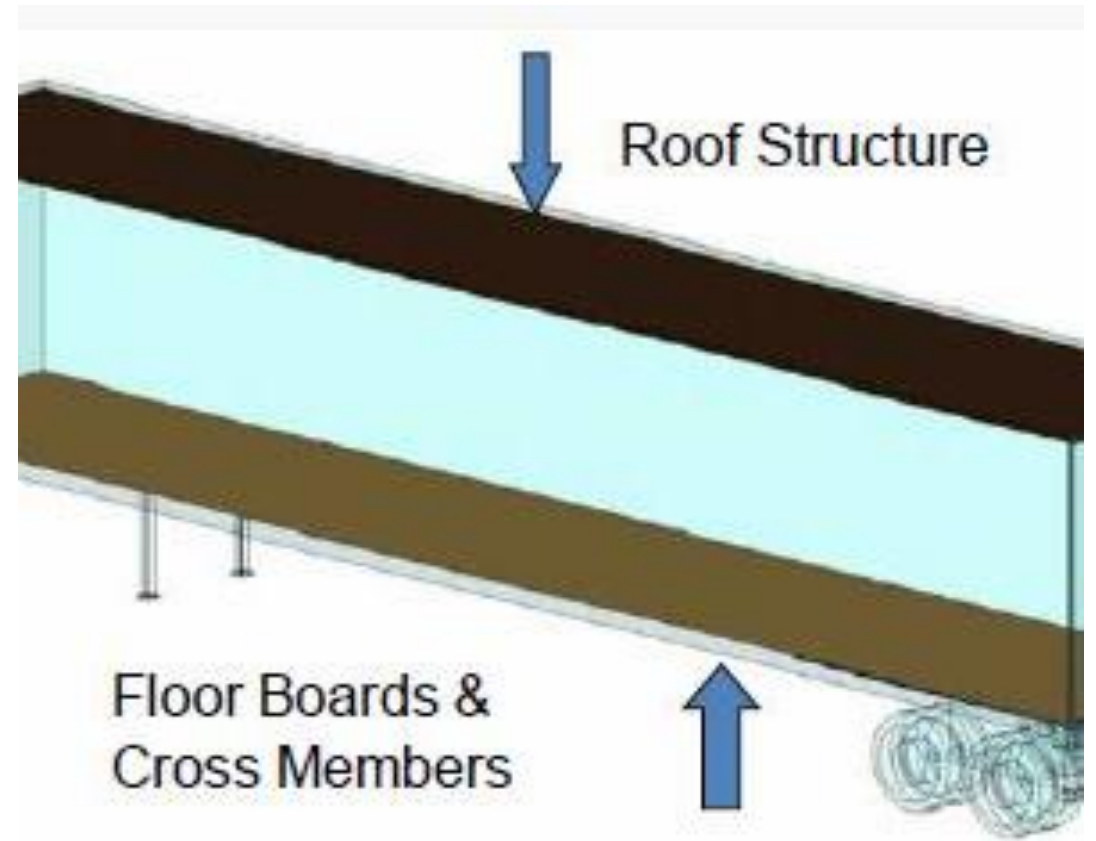
Best Practices for
dock leveler
maintenance

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

Trailer Hazards Awareness



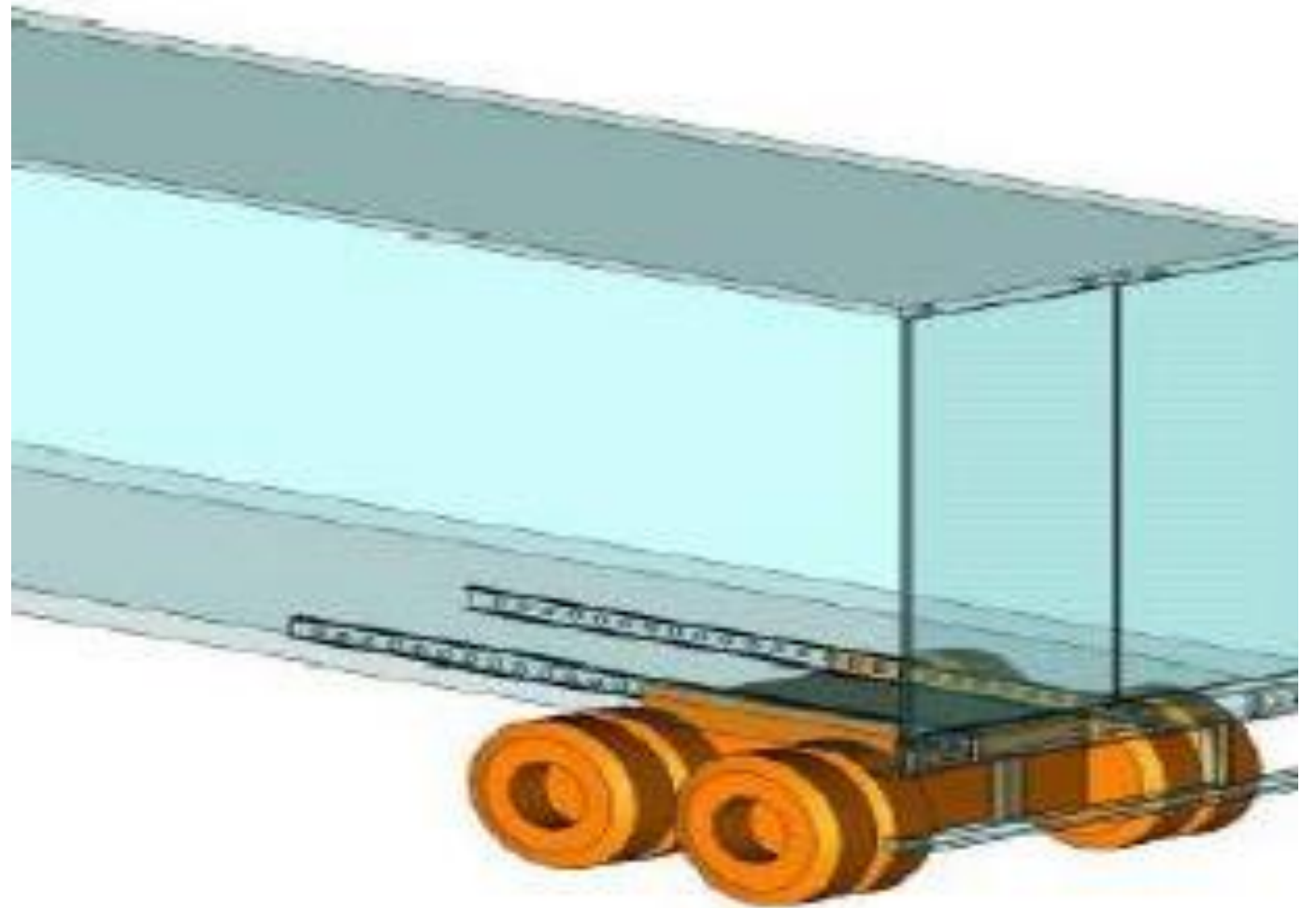
Trailer Hazards:
Identify risks during inspection



Trailer Hazards:
Identify risks during inspection

Tandem Wheel Location

The trailer wheels should be secured as far back on a trailer as possible.



Hazards while entering trailers

- 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 – **Trailer creep**
- Horizontal trailer movement can lead to trailer separation from the dock – **Trailer separation**



Review of prevention 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!



Dock Safety

2 Aspects of Dock Safety

Security

Security in the MTZ is important, as untrained and unauthorized people present an unknown hazard.

Safety

Safety within the MTZ is very important, as the hazards and risks in the area come from multiple areas.

Required Safety within the MTZ

Safe lifting training: annual refresher

Powered Equipment training: every 3yrs and as needed

Protect dock edges for people and equipment

Clearly defined and protected pedestrian areas

Cleaning of area to minimize slip/trip/fall potential

Inspections of all equipment

Required Security within the MTZ

Only authorized personnel within area

Only accept trailers from known sources

Proper manifesting of loads leaving

Secure dock doors when not in use

The Keys to a Safe Loading Dock

1

Have a clearly defined policy, and enforce the rules

2

Enforce safety and security rules within the MTZ

3

Conduct training for all employees, and refresher training annually

4

Post safety signage throughout area