

# SAFETY ALERT

## 364 - Truck drive-off incidents during loading operations

### Background

There have been several recent incidents involving truck drivers driving off while loading or unloading were still underway.

These incidents have resulted in forklifts being pushed onto their side or placed at risk of falling between the trailer and loading dock.

In some cases, communication between multiple forklift operators and the truck driver contributed to uncertainty around whether loading had been completed.

These events had the potential to cause serious injury or fatality to forklift operators, and nearby workers.



- Vehicle restraint controls, dock locks, wheel chocks, curtains, or load restraints not being used or verified.
- 

### RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

- Drivers must remain in the designated driver safety zone during loading and unloading.
- Trailers must be secured before loading starts using controls such as dock locks, wheel chocks, restraints, or key control processes.
- Forklift operators must confirm the trailer is secure before loading or unloading.
- Where multiple forklift operators are involved, clear communication and responsibilities must be agreed before work starts.
- A clear “all clear” process must be followed before the truck driver is authorised to depart.
- Truck drivers must not move the vehicle until directed by authorised loading personnel.
- Loading docks and trailers must be monitored throughout loading and unloading activities.
- Driver keys should be controlled and only returned once loading or unloading is complete.
- Use lights, signage, or other controls to identify when loading or unloading is in progress.
- Ensure forklift operators are trained, licensed, and competent in safe loading and unloading procedures.

### Safety Issues

- Forklifts being pulled over, or at risk of falling from loading docks due to premature vehicle movement.
- Inconsistent communication between forklift operators and truck drivers, including no clear confirmation that loading was complete.
- Drivers not remaining in designated safety zones during loading activities.
- Truck keys not controlled or handed over during loading/unloading activities.

For more information please contact: [safety@programmed.com.au](mailto:safety@programmed.com.au)

Date of Issue: 11/05/2026

**Report all incidents and near misses**

Please display on Safety Noticeboards and raise this matter at the next Toolbox Talk or Safety Meeting.