

While restocking shelving an employee climbed on the shelf unit to place items on top of the shelf. The shelf, which was not secured to the wall, tipped and fell on the employee.

What happened?

A maintenance worker was restocking a shelf when they climbed onto the shelf to place items on the top. The shelving was not properly secured and fell forward onto the employee, injuring them. Rather than seeking medical attention the employee tried to clean up the mess.

Aftermath of the incident

What went right:

EHS was informed of incident in a timely manner
Concerted effort to fix similar issues across campus post incident

Lessons Learned:

This incident emphasizes the importance of securing shelving to prevent tipping. It also highlights the need to place appropriate step stools and ladders in areas where employees must access materials stored up high. Lesson to be learned from this incident include:

Shelving must be secured to prevent tipping

An appropriate step stool or ladder must be used to access items at heights

Employees must be trained to never climb on shelving

Employees must be trained on the proper use of ladders and step stools. In the event of an incident employees should seek immediate medical attention if needed. Post incident clean up is a secondary consideration

Newly installed shelving brackets prevent tipping



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