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Miscommunication leads to forklift driver death

By SAEED AHMED
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
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A miscommunication between workers at a Cobb County warehouse led to the accidental death of a forklift truck driver Thursday morning, police said.

Shannon Lee Griffith, 32, of Dallas was loading a semitrailer truck at the Atlanta Bonded Warehouse on Cobb Industrial Boulevard when the truck driver pulled away from the dock, police said.

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The driver had been told to move the trailer because he apparently was at the wrong door, Kennesaw police Officer Scott Luther said. Not knowing that Griffith was still loading, the driver pulled forward while half of Griffith's forklift was on the dock plate and the other half was on the truck.

The forklift fell about three or four feet to the ground, pinning Griffith against a wall, Luther said. That's how police found him when they were called to the scene shortly before 9 a.m.

The victim died of severe head trauma, police said.

Luther did not know what Griffith was loading at the time of the accident, but the company's Web site lists it as a storage and handling facility for confectionaries.

Griffith had worked at the company for about 12 years and had recently divorced, and he spent his free time doting on his 7-year-old son, the man's younger brother said Thursday night.

"He's doing OK," Justin Griffith said with a sigh when asked how his young nephew was holding up. "He's a little distant."

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