

SONOCO *Near Miss!*



Date: March 9, 2021

Activity: Grocery Container Hazard

What Happened:

A team on location was about to unload groceries. The Steward opened the door and found that a pallet of water was leaning dangerously against the door.

The items at the bottom of the pallet had been crushed by the weight of the water, and this caused the product to lean.

Fortunately, the team was prepared and followed best practices by carefully opening the door and standing clear from the opening to prevent injury should something topple. There were no injuries because of this.



Why it Happened:

- Compactible items were placed on the bottom of the pallet.
- The water should have been placed directly on the deck of the container.
- The load shifted on the way to the platform due to somewhat rough seas.

Typical Hazards:

- Injury from falling objects

Corrective Actions:

- The Steward took a photo, sent it in to our Safety Director, and also called and explained what happened to Operations.

- We held a debriefing with the warehouse team and explained the issue, why it was important to not stack water that way, and reviewed the proper loading procedure for containers.
- The Warehouse Manager took the initiative of following up on container loading with each employee involved for the next two weeks. No further incidents were observed.

We encourage everyone to report when something like this happens. It will help us to be sure that we are always loading containers correctly, so that you can receive them safely.