

NEWS ARTICLE #7

UNREPORTED DAMAGE COULD SPELL TROUBLE Heads Up!

THE INCIDENT

An employee at Miami Lake was critically injured, and six other people were less seriously injured after a shelf of ceramic tiles collapsed on them on May 6th. Employee George Fanfan, 36, underwent surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for severe head injuries and body trauma, according to a report from the UPI. Tons of tiles were scattered in store aisles as a 20 foot tall shelf gave way. Rescue workers had to dig the employee out from under a pile of debris. Six other victims, including three store customers, suffered broken bones, scrapes, and bruises. Witnesses said there were no warnings before the shelves suddenly began collapsing under the weight of the tiles. The Metro-Dade County Florida Police went to the scene to determine how the accident occurred. **Inspectors believe the collapse was caused by a forklift accident that weakened one of the shelf's legs several hours to a day before the collapse.** A spokesman said several employees were being questioned about the accident, but investigators may not be able to determine which employee operated the forklift. "We don't know who that person is. We may never know."

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

The real danger here is the operator who failed to report the damage. That operator may not have been in the accident, but still caused several people else to have one without giving them the same chance at a safe work shift as the he or she (the operator) had.