

## Lesson Learned Briefing

**No.:** LL11-0018

**Title:** Employee Shifts Weight Forward Flipping Chair-Employee Falls

**Event:** LBNL Event

**Event Date:** 02/20/2011

**Category:** ES&H - Accident/Injury

### Lesson Learned Statement:

Adjustable office desk chairs with a five spoke wheel base have the potential to flip out from under employees as they shift their weight forward towards the front edge of the chair.

### Discussion:

An employee was sitting in an Allsteel (brand) Relate (model) adjustable office desk chair, with a five spoke wheel base. As the employee shifted his body weight forward toward the edge of the chair and began to leverage his body up to the standing position, two of the wheel spokes aligned in a manner that formed a line parallel to the front of the chair. This created a fulcrum where the downward force of the employee's body pushed the front edge of the chair seat down, flipping the back of the chair up and sending the two front wheels backward. As a result, the chair tipped over and the employee fell to the floor. It has been demonstrated that the more frontward the chair pan is adjusted relative to the wheel base, the easier it is to tip the chair.

Measures to prevent a recurrence include:

1. Not placing weight in front of the seat pan center line
2. Making sure one of the wheel spokes points forward when sitting/standing
3. Maintaining proper seat pan adjustment for current chair user

**Priority Boxes:**  ORPS Reportable  OSHA Recordable  PAAA  Other

**ISM Code:** Analyze the Hazards

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