

## WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

Vol.23 | No.46 | Week of 11-12-24 CONSTRUCTION FORKLIFTS

Date:	
Job Name:	

The most important safety device on your forklift is YOU!

A forklift is used to carry, push, pull, lift, stack, and tier material. Forklift accidents can be disastrous. 100,000 people are injured each year in forklift related accidents. It is crucial that every forklift operator understands forklift stability and knows how to operate the lift safely.

In March of 1999, OSHA issued new standards requiring every operator to be trained before operating any powered industrial truck, including forklifts. Training includes operating instructions, differences between forklifts and automobiles, controls, instrumentation, maneuvering, visibility restrictions, fork attachments, vehicle capacity and stability, inspections, maintenance, refueling, and operating limitations. When you complete the training course, you will receive a certificate. Following are some safety issues to remember anytime you operate a forklift.

Prior to starting a forklift, complete a pre-use inspection. Check all fluid levels. Inspect the mast, carriage, forks, overhead guard, backrest, tires, seat belt, lights, backup alarm, and hydraulic system. If you find anything wrong don't use the lift until it is repaired. Don't forget to check the identification plate for the capacity of the lift.

As you operate the lift, remember that stability is very important. Where the load sits is just as important as how much it weighs. Watch out for power lines; keep the forklift and the load away from them. Buckle your seat belt and keep your hands and legs inside the cab. Avoid making jerky moves and don't lift loads over people. Drive in reverse down a ramp or incline to keep the load on the high side of the slope. If your truck starts to tip over, don't jump. Stay in your seat and go with the truck; grip the wheel securely and brace yourself with your feet.

Look for others before moving your forklift. Slow down to look for traffic when crossing aisles, walkways, and roads. Sound your horn before backing up, at intersections, when traveling through doors, and anywhere your vision is limited or blocked. Come to a complete stop before reversing direction.

You can avoid injury or even death by following the lift manufacturer's instructions and practicing what you learned in your training course.

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