

Safe Forklift Operation

Forklift operators and employees working around these operations are at risk of hazards such as collisions, falls, tip-overs, and struck-by conditions. Ways to prevent these hazards include:

Forklift Operations

- Always operate the vehicle according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Always wear a seatbelt when the forklift has one.
- Never exceed the rated load and ensure it is stable and balanced.
- Do not raise or lower the load while traveling.
- Keep a safe distance from platform and ramp edges.
- Be aware of other vehicles in the work area.
- Have clear visibility of the work area and ensure you have enough clearance when raising, loading, and operating a forklift.
- Use proper footing and the handhold, if available, when entering the lift.
- Use horns at cross aisles and obstructed areas.
- Watch for pedestrians and observe the speed limit.
- Do not give rides or use the forks to lift people.

Safety Training

- Only trained and certified workers may operate a forklift.
- Ensure operators are trained on types of trucks in use.

Forklift Maintenance

- Remove from service any forklift found to be in unsafe operating condition.
- Keep forklifts in clean condition; free of excess oil and grease.
- Repair and maintain according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

For more information:



U.S. Department of Labor



www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)