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Forklift Operation Safety

Your Top 10 Safety Tips

HOW TO AVOID FORKLIFT DANGERS

Forklifts weigh more than three tons and can reach speeds of over 10mph. Some may think it would be like driving a car, but it is really very different. Compared to a car, forklifts are heavier in the rear to counter the weight of items being carried on the forks. And while cars have brakes on all four wheels, most forklifts only have stopping power in their front drive wheels. Also, a forklift is turned by moving the rear wheels, therefore, it has a much smaller turning radius than a car. Forklifts are a necessity on a construction site and an incredibly useful warehouse tool when used safely.

YOUR TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS

- 1 Train and authorize your forklift operators - it is an OSHA requirement
- 2 Before each shift, examine forklifts for maintenance issues
- 3 Never leave an operating forklift unattended - in fact, leaving keys in an unattended forklift is illegal
- 4 Know and never exceed the lifting capacity of the forklift - most accidents with forklifts occur when unstable loads fall
- 5 Forklifts must follow designated roadways at the work site
- 6 Keep hands and feet away from the cross members of the mast - if it is lowered and you catch your hand, you'll suffer a serious injury
- 7 Avoid fast moves - always drive, stop, turn, and lift or lower the forks slowly and as smoothly as possible
- 8 Always travel with the forks positioned as low as possible for increased stability and protection
- 9 If your load obstructs your view, operate the forklift in reverse to improve visibility and operation control
- 10 Forklifts which are not in use should be carefully parked, with the parking brake applied

BONUS TIP: Always check carefully before turning or backing up the vehicle. Keep in mind that people may be standing on your blind side.

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SERIOUS FORKLIFT INJURIES ANNUALLY IN U.S.

70%

AVOIDED ACCIDENTS IF HAD PROPER TRAINING

10

TOP OSHA VIOLATIONS FORKLIFT CITATIONS