



## Forklift Safety

The three most common forklift-related fatalities involve forklift overturns, workers on foot being struck by forklifts and workers falling from forklifts.

**The following measures are recommended to prevent injury when operating or working near forklifts:**

- Report to your supervisor any damage or problems that occur with a forklift during your shift.
- On all grades, tilt the load back if applicable and raise it only as far as needed to clear the road surface.
- Exit from a stand-up type forklift with rear-entry access by stepping backward if a lateral tipover occurs.
- Do not jump from an overturning, sit-down type forklift. Stay with the truck if lateral or longitudinal tipover occurs. Hold on firmly and lean in the opposite direction of the overturn.
- Do not raise or lower the forks while the forklift is moving.
- Do not handle loads that are heavier than the rated weight capacity of the forklift.
- Operate the forklift at a speed that will permit it to be stopped safely.
- Slow down and sound the horn at intersections and other locations where vision is obstructed.
- Look toward the path of travel and keep a clear view of it.
- Do not allow passengers to ride on forklift trucks unless a seat is provided.
- Do not drive up to anyone standing in front of a bench or other fixed object.

## Forklift Safety Tips

- Only operate a forklift if you are trained, certified and 18 years of age or older; it is a violation of federal law for anyone under 18 to operate a forklift or for anyone not properly trained and certified to do so.
- Do not modify or make attachments that affect the capacity and safe operation of the forklift without written approval from the forklift's manufacturer.
- Drive safely - never exceed 5 mph and slow down in congested or slippery surface areas.
- Make certain that the reverse signal alarm is operational and audible above the surrounding noise level.
- Examine the forklift truck, including tires, for defects and needed maintenance before using.

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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