TOOL BOX TALKS
Forklift Safety Review

Each year, tens of thousands of injuries related to forklifts occur in US workplaces. Many employees are injured when lift trucks are inadvertently driven off loading docks, lifts fall between docks and an unsecured trailer, they are struck by a lift truck, or when they fall while on elevated pallets and tines. Most incidents also involve property damage, including damage to overhead sprinklers, racking, pipes, walls, and machinery. Review these safety tips!

WORKSAFE TIPS

TRAINING REQUIRED

- Forklift operators - trained, evaluated and certified.
- Permission can be revoked upon discovery of a safety violation.
- Frequent training refreshers are recommended.

FORKLIFT INSPECTIONS

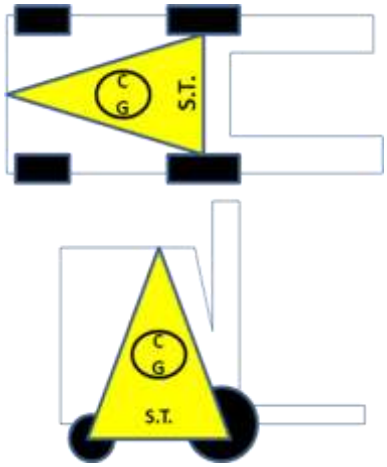
- Forklifts must be inspected for hazards at the beginning of each workday or shift.
- Forklift inspections are vital – an inspection could turn up a hazard that could result in injury.
- Check these items:
    - Tire condition
    - Fork and mast controls
    - Brake controls
    - Steering controls
    - Warning equipment
    - Seat belt

FORKLIFT BEST PRACTICES

- Operators should know the term “stability triangle.”
- Operators should know the definition “load center.”
- Know the lifting capacity of each forklift.
- Never lift weight greater than 90% of the forklift lifting capacity.
- Do not operate faster than walking speed.
- Forklift operators must wear the safety belt when using a forklift.
    - During rollover, the forklift safety cage falls on top of the operator, resulting in death
- Never lift another employee on the forks.
- Never allow riders.
- Never overload forklifts.
- Sound horn at blind corners or at the end of aisles.

STABILITY TRIANGLE

- On a common, sit-down style forklift, imagine the stability triangle as a 3-dimensional triangle that, when looking at the side of the truck, extends from both front and back hubs to the top center of the rollover cage.
- Also, the stability triangle, when looking at the underside of a forklift, is from both front axle hubs to the rear steering suspension center pin.
- Imagine the forklift’s center of gravity (CG) as a softball in the middle of these triangles.
- When the center of gravity (CG) leaves the stability triangle, the forklift becomes unstable.
- Rollover, skid or load dropped could result.
- What causes the center of gravity to leave the stability triangle?
    - Forklift too fast
    - Lifting overweight loads
    - Turning too fast
    - Turning while lifting a load



WorkSAFE

Smart, Accident-Free Environments