

TOOL BOX TALKS

Pallet Racking Safety

Pallet Racking is among the most commonly used means of storage. They are used in virtually every industry in every part of the world. There are numerous styles and types of pallet racking in the market today and it's essential that the appropriate pallet racking be chosen to match the operation. Proper forklift training and reinforcing safe operation will help reduce major damage to racks. Review these safety tips with forklift operators, and anyone else working with pallet racking.

WORKSAFE TIPS

HAZARDS IN PALLET RACKING AREAS

- Falling pallets or products
- Forklifts at work
- Rolling ladders
- Heavy boxes and packages

FORKLIFT SAFETY FOR PEDESTRIANS

- Always stay alert when working in areas where forklifts are operating.
- Remember that the forklift operator may not be able to see you.
- At blind corners, keep an eye out for moving forklifts or pallet trucks.
- Stay clear of areas where forklift use is frequent like loading docks or shipping areas.
- Never attempt to move or operate a forklift unless you are trained and authorized to do so.

SLIP, TRIP AND FALL

- If you see a trip hazard, pick it up!!!
- What items can cause a slip, trip and fall?
 - Shrink wrapping
 - Pallet strapping
 - Cardboard
 - Waste paper
 - Wooden pallet chunks
- It is everyone's job to pick up and discard waste trip hazards.
- Never walk by and ignore trip hazards.
- Inspect the work area often for these hazards.
- Empty trash cans when full – do not allow them to overflow.

BEST PRACTICES

- Know pallet racking capacities for both the "pod" and shelf cross beams.
- Never overload pallet racking.
- Report damaged pallet racking cross beams and uprights.
- Do not attempt to fix or straighten damaged pallet racking components.
- Rack components with major dents or bends should be removed from service.
- Dents, bent components and other damage can reduce the racking capacity.
- Never climb pallet racking.
- Never stand on pallet racking shelves.
- Do not allow employees to work in pallet racking pods – stay out from beneath.
- Inspect pallet racking often for falling object hazards.
- Report falling object hazards to the supervisor immediately.
- Never use plywood as a shelf in pallet racking – can transfer fire laterally through the rack.
- Bolt pallet rack uprights to the floor.
- Protect pallet rack uprights from damage.
- When using a ladder to access materials stored in pallet racking, consider taking the ladder off.
- Consider an engineer's annual inspection of pallet racking.
- When working in an outdoors environment, use only racking that is designed for outdoor use.
- Inspect outdoor pallet racking often for rust, corrosion and a stable base.
- When loading pallet racking, beware of the sprinkler heads that may be within the rack.

Work **SAFE**

Smart, Accident-Free Environments