

TOOL BOX TALKS

Forklift Work Platforms

Off road forklifts make life easier on the jobsite as their versatility, maneuverability and reach make them a valuable work tool. Off road forklifts can be used as portable scaffolds. However—quickly built, temporary platforms are unacceptable for lifting employees. Their life is on the line! Never let assumptions and complacency override employee safety. Use the correct, safe work platform, and review these tips with platform users!

WORKSAFE TIPS

WORK PLATFORM SAFETY BASICS

- Employees working in platforms shall be trained to know fall, struck by and work platform hazards.
- Forklift owners must have permission from the forklift manufacturer before using work platforms.
- Consult the forklift manufacturer to identify the right platform for the particular forklift.
- Fork-mounted work platforms must be constructed to OSHA, ANSI and ASME – buy one, don't make one!
- Forklift work platforms shall be secured to the forklift backrest to prevent sliding or slide off.
- Fork-mounted work platforms shall be inspected before the beginning of each work shift by a competent person.
- The platform shall have a top rail, mid rail and toe board, constructed to OSHA standards.
- Employees shall not stand on the guardrails.
- Employees lifted on work platforms shall be protected with a personal fall arrest harness and short lanyard. (2 or 4-foot lanyard)
- Forklift operators must be trained.
- NEVER use sway controls to make lateral movements while workers are on the platform.
- When working in work platforms, employees must not use ladders, buckets or other unsafe means to gain additional reach.
- Forklifts shall not “transport” workers around the jobsite in work platforms.
- An overhead jobsite survey shall be performed before beginning platform work to identify:
 - Overhead obstructions & overhead power lines
- The forklift operator must stay in the seat and belted when employees are on work platforms.

NEVER RAISE EMPLOYEES ON PALLETS!



Photo of a pallet used during a fatality fall accident!



Lifting employees on the forks is unsafe and unacceptable!



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