

Safe Forklift Operation

Forklift operators and employees working around these operations are at risk of hazards such as collisions, falls, tip-overs, and struck-by conditions. Ways to prevent this hazards include:

Forklift Operations

- Always wear a seatbelt when the vehicle has one.
- Never exceed the rated load and ensure it is balanced.
- Place the forklift in neutral and set the parking brake before raising the load.
- Keep a safe distance from platform and ramp edges.
- Be aware of other forklifts in the work area.
- Have clear visibility of the work area when loading and operating a forklift.
- Use the grab bar and proper footing to enter the lift.
- Use lights, mirrors, and horns.
- Watch for pedestrians and observe the speed limit.
- Do not use the forks to lift people.

Safety Training

- Only certified and trained workers may operate a forklift; certification must be refreshed every 3 years.
- Ensure operators are trained on types of trucks in use.

Forklift Maintenance

- Remove from service any forklift found to be in unsafe operating condition.
- Perform preventive maintenance according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Keep forklifts in clean condition; free of lint, excess oil, and grease.

For more information:



U.S. Department of Labor



**Occupational
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www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)