



Forklift Operator Safety Alert

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends the following safety measures to prevent injury when operating or working near forklifts:



- **Do not operate a forklift unless you have been trained** and certified on the type of equipment that you will be operating.
- **Do not jump from an overturning forklift.** Stay inside the truck if an overturn occurs. The overhead guard will cause serious injuries if it falls on you. A properly worn seat belt will keep you inside the unit.
- **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. Check the load capacity of the forklift before operating.
- **Do not allow passengers to ride on forklift trucks** unless the truck is specifically designed with passenger provisions.
- **Do not drive up to anyone**, especially if they're standing in front of a bench or other fixed object.
- **Do not elevate workers who are standing on the forks, pallets, etc.**
- **Do not elevate a worker on an approved personnel/worker elevating platform** unless the vehicle is directly below the work area and the platform is correctly secured to the lifting carriage or forks of the forklift.



- **Use seat belts on all sit-down forklifts.**
- **Report to your supervisor** any damage or problems that occur with a forklift during your shift.
- **Use extreme caution** on grades, ramps or inclines. You should travel only straight up and down. Do not make turns.
- **On all grades**, tilt the load back if applicable and raise it only high enough to clear the road surface. Loads should always travel up grade.
- **Operate the forklift at a speed** (no faster than a brisk walk) that will permit it to be stopped safely. This will also prevent shifting or loss of the load.
- **Slow down and sound the horn** at intersections and other locations where vision is obstructed, especially within close proximity of pedestrians.
- **Look toward the path of travel** and keep a clear view of it.
- **Before dismounting from a forklift**, always set the parking brake, lower the forks and neutralize the controls.
- **Use restraining** means such as rails, chains or body belts with a lanyard or deceleration device for the person(s) on the platform.
- **Never drive with the forks elevated.**