

TOOL BOX TALKS

Forklift Safety Review No. 2

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

LEGAL AGE

- It is a violation of Federal law for anyone **UNDER 18** years of age to operate a forklift or for anyone **OVER 18** years of age who is not properly trained and certified to do so.

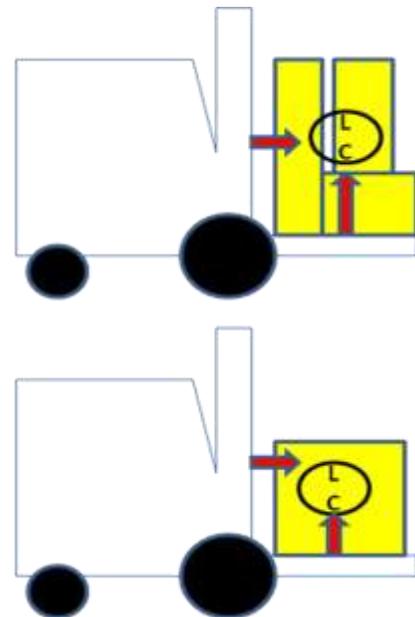


LOAD STACKING

- Make sure the load does not weigh more than the lifting capacity of the forklift.
- Stack loads like a pyramid – wide base that narrows as the stack gets higher.
- Secure load objects so they will not fall.
- Keep the load's center of gravity low.
- Never lift loads heavier than the lifting capacity.
- Use extreme caution on ramps or inclines.
- Operate at slow speeds to prevent load loss.
- Stack loads that do not block operator view.
- Do not drive forward when the load blocks the view – drive in reverse.

LOAD CENTER

- The forklift has a center of gravity, but the load also has a center of gravity.
- This is called "load center."
- Load center on a common warehouse sit-down style forklift is 24".
- This means 24-inches above the top of the fork, and 24-inches forward of the load backrest.
- For optimum, and safe, lifting capacity – the load's center of gravity must be matched with the "load center" of the forklift.
- A load's center of gravity that is too far out lower's the forklift's lifting capacity.
- A load's center of gravity that is too far to the left or right can cause the lift to tip left or right.
- A load's center of gravity that is too high can cause the lift to become unstable.



WorkSAFE

Smart, Accident-Free Environments



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