

TOOL BOX TALKS

Unloading Trailers with Forklifts

Each year, tens of thousands of injuries related to forklifts occur in US workplaces. Over 100 workers die in forklift accidents. 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. Review these safety tips with employees that load or unload trucks.

WORKSAFE TIPS

HAZARDS OF TRAILERS

- Forklifts are heavy, weighing from 11,000 to over 15,000 pounds! (6 to 9 tons!)
- Most semi truck trailers have floor damage from years of road mileage and damage from use.
- Forklifts can easily fall through holes in the floor.
- Also, remember that forklifts can PUSH trucks and trailers forward when forklift operators use the brakes.
- When trucks and trailers roll forward, a gap will occur between the dock and trailer, into which forklifts can fall.
- Trailers that are not connected to a tractor must have a jack stand placed beneath the trailer kingpin plate.
- These jack stands keep the trailer from tipping forward when the forklift drives over or past the trailer dolly legs.
 - This is called “upending”
- Do not allow anyone in the trailer during the unloading process – the space is too confined.
- Chock tires to prevent trailer / truck roll during offloading.
- Keep track of the driver to prevent truck drive off during the unloading process.

WHEEL CHOCK AND JACK STAND



INSPECT TRAILERS FOR THE FOLLOWING

- Cracks in the floor
- Makeshift patches
- Steel plates
- Sunlight coming up through cracks
- Separation between trailer walls and floor
- Wheel chock in place
- Driver accounted for
- If no tractor connected to the trailer, has a jack stand been installed?

IF THE TRAILER LOOKS UNSAFE, DO NOT GO OUT ONTO IT WITH A HEAVY FORKLIFT!



WorkSAFE

Smart, Accident-Free Environments