

TOOL BOX TALKS

Dock Crossover Safety

Manufacturing

Dock crossovers (also called dock plates and dock levelers) are bridges that are placed between rail cars or transport trailers and warehouse loading docks. These bridges allow forklifts to be driven directly into the trailer or rail car. Dock plates must be used safely, as a serious forklift accident could result from improper use of these devices. Please review the following safety tips with your employees.

Toolbox Tips

1. Maintain dock crossovers per manufacturer's requirements. Inspect dock plates for safety and proper function regularly.
2. Spring loaded dock crossovers must be adjusted on a regular basis to ensure proper function.
3. Keep trash and debris cleared from beneath the dock plate area in recessed dock crossovers.
4. Dock plates that are not built in must be secured to prevent walking caused by forklift activity.
5. Do not overload the dock plate. Post the dock plate capacity for forklift operators to see.
6. Slow down when crossing dock plates.
7. If a dock plate panel is bent or if an edge is curled up, get it repaired. These bends weaken the plate.
8. If raining or snowing, remove ice and snow and keep the dock plate surface dry. Dock plates can be slippery.
9. Manual dock plates should be moved with a forklift or material handling devices to avoid pinched or cut fingers and injured backs.
10. Portable dock plates plates that are moved by hand must have handholds.
11. Dock levelers must be fully bridged across the trailer. Any gaps along the leveler "tongue" and the trailer could cause the leveler to twist downward and collapse.
12. Always look to the rear when backing forklifts.



Check truck tires and request the driver shut down the engine to prevent the truck from pulling away.



Forklifts can fall off from loading docks will can kill the operator.



Employees can fall from dock plates that do not have guardrails.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

For more information:



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