

Forklift Operator Safety

Employees must be trained and authorized before operating a forklift. Employee training should include everything from inspecting to driving a forklift.

Safety Rules

- Employees must be trained and authorized before operating forklifts.
- Perform a written forklift inspection before use.
- Report maintenance concerns or hazards in writing to a supervisor.
- Report propane or fuel leaks to a supervisor immediately.
- Remove unsafe forklifts from service, and lock and tag the machine out of service.
- Do not perform maintenance on forklifts unless trained and authorized.
- Always wear your seat belt when operating forklifts to prevent ejection during rollover accidents.
- Never lift anyone on forklift forks.
- Use only approved lifting platforms and fall restraint harnesses for lifting employees.
- Keep forklift speeds slow to prevent striking a pedestrian.
- When traveling with a load, drive up and back down inclines and ramps.
- When traveling unloaded, back up and drive down inclines and ramps.
- When a load blocks the view of the operator, travel in reverse.
- Do not smoke in forklift charging or refueling areas.
- Chock or block wheels to prevent trailers from rolling during loading or unloading.
- To prevent tipping of an unhooked trailer, use a jack stand to support the nose of the trailer.
- Never overload a forklift.
- Honk the forklift horn when approaching corners or entering doorways.
- Lower the forks and turn the machine off when leaving the operator's seat.

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