

FORKLIFT SAFETY INFORMATION

The number of forklift accidents has been reduced by nearly one-half in the last two decades (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics), even while the numbers of forklifts and forklift operators have increased. Effective training of forklift operators, keeping equipment in safe working order, and attention to basic safety principles in the workplace are essential to continue this progress to ensure that workers go home safe and sound every day. Use the information below to improve forklift safety at your company.

CORE ELEMENTS OF SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAMS

1. Management Leadership



2. Worker Participation



3. Finding & Fixing Hazards



KEY ELEMENTS FOR FORKLIFT SAFETY OPERATOR, MACHINE, ENVIRONMENT

- Make sure your forklift operators are properly trained and evaluated (*Powered Industrial Trucks, 1910.178(l)*)
 - Generic programs don't qualify—tailor the training to the machine and the workplace
 - Passive training doesn't pass—have the operator demonstrate safe performance
 - Always monitor safety performance to correct problems quickly
- Make sure your forklifts are in safe working order (*Powered Industrial Trucks, 1910.178(a)(4), (p)(1)*), (*The Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout), 1910.147*)
 - Use the right machine for the job
 - Use an operator's daily checklist
 - Take malfunctioning equipment out of service (and follow Lockout/Tagout rules)
 - Get the manufacturer's written approval for modifications that could affect safety
- Make sure your work environment is safe for forklifts (*Powered Industrial Trucks, 1910.178(b), (l)(3)(ii)(D), (m)(6), (n)(12)*)
 - Use strategies to separate forklifts and pedestrians
 - Keep travelways clear, keep overhead objects secure
 - Consider special conditions: docks, ramps, elevators, explosive atmospheres, etc.

PROTECT ALL FORKLIFT OPERATORS

Ensure all forklift operators are protected. Operators with the following characteristics may be at greater risk of injury:

- Operators at smaller companies
- Workers who operate forklifts part-time
- Younger workers and new hires who need to gain experience
- Temporary workers
- Workers having English as a second language
- Workers who fall within all or several of these categories

RESOURCES FOR FORKLIFT SAFETY

- [OSHA Powered Industrial Trucks \(Forklift\) eTool](#)
- [OSHA Safety and Health Topics: Powered Industrial Trucks-Forklifts](#)
- [OSHA Training and Reference Materials Library: Powered Industrial Trucks Training Materials](#)
- ANSI/ITSDF B56.1-2016 SAFETY STANDARD FOR LOW LIFT AND HIGH LIFT TRUCKS available at <http://www.itsdf.org>