

Although forklifts (powered industrial trucks) make work more efficient, they can pose serious hazards to those operating or working near them. Forklift operators and workers nearby are at risk of hazards such as collisions, falls, tip-overs, and struck-by conditions.

Forklift overturns are the leading cause of fatalities involving forklifts and they represent about 25% of all forklift-related deaths.

**OSHA Standard 1926.602(c)(1)(vii)** *Unauthorized personnel shall not be permitted to ride on powered industrial trucks. A safe place to ride shall be provided where riding of trucks is authorized.*

- Do not raise or lower the load while traveling.
- Do not give rides or use the forks to lift people.
- Do not engage in stunt driving and horseplay.
- Do not allow passenger(s) to ride on a forklift unless the forklift is specifically designed to accommodate passengers.
- Forklift operators should use the proper footing and handhold when mounting and dismounting the forklift. Do not jump off the forklift.



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Before using a forklift, examine it for hazardous conditions which would make it unsafe to operate. Remove from service any forklift found to be in unsafe operating condition.

- The operator should conduct a pre-start visual check before turning the forklift on and then also perform an operational check with the engine running.

Drive loaded forklifts forward going up a ramp with the load upgrade and drive in reverse going down a ramp with the load upgrade.

- Always drive unloaded forklifts with the forks downgrade.
- Never drive with the load downgrade.
- Never turn a forklift on a grade.

Taking the following steps can protect workers from forklift hazards.

- Always wear seatbelts when operating a forklift.
- Be aware of other vehicles in the work area.
- Use horns at cross aisles and obstructed areas.
- Watch for pedestrians and observe speed limits.
- Keep a safe distance from platform and ramp edges.
- Have clear visibility of the work area and ensure you have enough clearance when raising, loading, and operating a forklift.
- Consider the noise level at the worksite. Do not assume other workers are able to hear a back-up alarm.

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.



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