

WAREHOUSE HAZARDS

According to OSHA, the fatal injury rate for the warehousing industry is higher than the national average for all industries.

Potential hazards for warehouse workers include:

- Unsafe use of forklifts
- Improper stacking of products
- Failure to use proper personal protective equipment
- Failure to follow proper lockout/tagout procedures
- Inadequate fire safety provisions
- Repetitive motion injuries
- Slips, trips and falls



- If you are unsure of safety rules or operations, stop and ask for clarification.
- If you see a hazard either correct it or report it.
- Every forklift operator must be trained and certified. Absolutely no stunt driving, or horseplay is allowed.
- When walkways or aisles are blocked by pallets or other materials it is important to stop and carefully push or carry the items out of the way.
- Material and supplies should never block access to emergency exits, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, fire hoses, or electrical panel boxes.
- Walk, do not run, while in the warehouse. Never jump off forklifts, loading docks, or ladders.
- If lifting is required to move a load, remember to keep your back straight, and bend at the knees, not at the waist. Never twist while lifting a load.
- Transport materials mechanically, when possible, to avoid overexertion or back injuries.
- When cutting shrink wrap, boxes or other material, direct the blade away from your face and body.

Discussion

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How do you identify potential trip hazards on the warehouse floor?

What should you do if you spot a safety hazard in the warehouse?