



Safety Talk

Lift trucks in the warehouse

List lift truck hazards on site:

Explain the dangers

- Many workers are injured by lift trucks in situations like the following.
 - A lift truck is unintentionally driven off a loading dock.
 - A lift truck falls between a dock and an unsecured trailer.
 - A worker is struck by a lift truck when it is backing up or when the worker cannot be seen by the operator.
 - A lift truck tips over and crushes the operator or a worker.
 - The load on a lift truck falls off the forks because it was not loaded or secured properly.
 - The operator did not keep his or her hands and feet inside the cab. The operator slips or falls when getting in or out of the cab.
- Many incidents also involve property damage, including damage to overhead sprinklers, racking, pipes, walls, and machinery.
- Most injuries and property damage are caused by
 - lack of safe operating procedures
 - lack of safety-rule enforcement
 - insufficient or inadequate training.

Identify controls

- Always wear suitable clothing and safety shoes or boots when you are working in a warehouse. Take off any jewellery, and keep long hair tied back to prevent it from being caught in machinery or equipment.
- Watch out for other workers and vehicles, especially near doorways and ends of aisles.
- When backing up, always look in the direction that you are travelling. Watch for people, equipment, or anything else in your path of travel.
- Don't be afraid to use your horn. It's better to make too much noise than not enough.
- Secure the load properly to prevent it from falling onto equipment or pedestrians.
- When you are stacking something on high shelves, make sure the lift truck can stack at the proper heights and manoeuvre in aisles without becoming unstable.
- Always fasten your seatbelt when driving a lift truck.
- Always use three-point contact when getting in and out of the cab.
- Review the manufacturer's instructions and keep the manual with the equipment for quick reference.

Demonstrate

- Ask the crew to show that they understand the load chart.
- Ask forklift operators if they can remember the speed limits and warning signs located at your facility.
- Ask the operators to show that they understand all the warnings and precautions for the type of forklifts they will be allowed to use.