

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

COMMON FACTORS IN FORKLIFT HAZARDS *Page 1 of 2*

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

Systems – Features of Forklift Operations:

1. Lack or improper training of workers for those portions of their jobs that involve interaction with forklift trucks.
2. Production factors – speed, stress.
3. Lack of availability of tools, attachments and accessories.
4. Improper assignment of forklifts and operators.
5. Poor maintenance of forklifts.
6. Age of forklifts.
7. Lack of pre-use inspections.

Behavioral/Operational Factors:

1. Improper back up.
2. Improper turning.
3. Improper warnings to other of forklift's presence.
4. Requesting/giving rides on the forklift or load.
5. Walking and working in the general area of forklift operations.
6. Poor communication during shared tasks or in shared spaces.
7. Parking the forklift.
8. Improper blocking of wheels on semitrailers and railway cars, checking on blocking and bed surfaces.
9. Non acceptable behaviors – horseplay, showoff driving, jerky driving.
10. Inadequate servicing of the forklift.

Observable Characteristics of the Workplace:

1. Narrow aisles.
2. Crowded, cluttered aisles.
3. Intersections and doors.
4. Concentrations of traffic.
5. Condition of the driving surface.
6. Other conditions – noise, odors, toxic gases, dust, lighting.
7. Many ramps, different surfaces.
8. Condition of the loading dock.

Characteristics of the Load:

1. Poor palletizing.
2. Pallets in poor repair.
3. Load too heavy.
4. Load unstable or blocking vision.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

COMMON FACTORS IN FORKLIFT HAZARDS *Page 2 of 2*

Features of the Lift Trucks:

1. Malfunction of brakes.
2. Malfunction of steering.
3. Malfunction of clutch, shift linkage or transmission.
4. Leaks in hydraulic systems and/or transmissions.
5. Safety devices lacking, inadequate or malfunctioning.
6. Emissions from forklifts.
7. Obstructions to driver vision.
8. Poor layout of controls and displays.
9. Worn pictograms on controls.
10. Poor or non-existing data plate & load charts.