



Ten Ways to Cause Mishaps with a Forklift

1. **Operating a forklift without proper training and certification.** Every forklift operator must successfully complete training, evaluation, and attend refresher training. Your employer must ensure that you are capable of operating a forklift safely.
2. **Using a forklift in ways it was not intended to be used.** Never use a forklift as a crane or wrecker. Putting such undue stress on the lift can cause it to turn over.
3. **Carrying an unstable or unsafely arranged load.** Doing so can cause loss of stability and increases the risk of turning over. Stabilize your load and use extreme caution when handling off-center loads that cannot be centered.
4. **Bypassing safety devices on the forklift.** Safety devices are in place for your protection. Never bypass any of them. If you find that any safety devices are not working properly, take the machine out of service immediately.
5. **Not knowing the weight of the load.** As a qualified operator, it's your responsibility to know the weight of what you are lifting. You cannot safely operate a forklift without this knowledge. Failure to know the weight of the load can lead to forklift failure or tip-over.
6. **Failing to ensure that dockboards or bridgeplates are secured and strong enough to handle the load.** Properly secure dockboards and bridgeplates before driving over them. Drive carefully and slowly over them, and never exceed their rated capacity. Here again, you must know the weight of the load.
7. **Operating a forklift at a high rate of speed while making a turn.** When negotiating turns, reduce your speed to prevent the lift from turning over.
8. **Operating a forklift with limited visibility.** When you operate a forklift, you must always keep a clear view of your path of travel. If you can't see over the load, drive in reverse. If your vision is obstructed, slow down and sound your horn at all intersections.
9. **Backing up without watching where you are going.** Always check for people or obstacles before backing up. Make sure that your backup alarm is operating to alert others in the area.
10. **Operating a forklift in a closed environment.** Operating in such an environment or in other areas with insufficient ventilation could cause a buildup of carbon monoxide from diesel exhaust. Don't create a hazardous atmosphere.

We just discussed 10 ways to really mess up the day with a forklift. A lift's stability and safe operation depend on many factors, and you control ALL of them. Make it your goal to stay safe when you're using and working near forklifts.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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When operating a forklift, you don't need to touch power lines to be electrocuted. Electricity can arc to the lift or the load. Maintain a minimum distance of 10 feet from power lines.

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED MSDS #

SUBJECT:

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME:

MEETING DATE:

SUPERVISOR:

ATTENDEES:

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.