



Fact Sheet No. 1: Ensuring pedestrian safety around power industrial trucks.

This is the first in a series of Fact Sheets developed by the National Safety Council concerning safe application and operation of power industrial trucks, commonly known as forklifts, pallet trucks, rider trucks, fork trucks, or lift trucks.

Why should pedestrian safety policies be included in an overall lift truck safety program?

Safety for pedestrians is often overlooked in lift truck safety programs. According to 2008 data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number one cause of lift truck related work fatalities is pedestrians being struck by the vehicle. The second leading fatal event associated with lift trucks is when the vehicle overturns.

What should employers do to protect pedestrians around lift trucks?

- Identify proper aisle ways and widths.
- Mark aisle ways for equipment and pedestrian walkways.
- Keep aisles free from obstructions, such as hand trucks and carts.
- Mark slow-down locations: intersections, aisle ways, blind corners where doors open to an aisle, dock areas and where lighting is impaired.
- Install and instruct operators on how to use convex mirrors when appropriate.
- Ensure that only authorized and trained operators operate a lift truck. Employers must certify that operators have been trained and evaluated in accordance with the OSHA standard.
- Educate workers about hazards related to cell phone distraction while driving and establish a policy for use of wireless devices and cell phones in the workplace.

What should lift truck operators do to protect pedestrians?

- Use warning devices, such as lights, horns, and back-up alarms.
- Slow down, stop, and sound the horn at intersections, corners, and wherever your vision is obstructed.
- Do not move the truck if you do not have a clear view of travel. Use a spotter for blind spots.
- When possible, make eye contact with pedestrians.
- Do not talk or text on a cell phone while operating a lift truck.

How can pedestrians protect themselves?

- Never step in front of a lift truck or piece of powered equipment.
- Never step in front of a loaded truck to attempt to swerve to avoid being struck. A load being carried could easily tip over or slide off of the lift truck and strike the pedestrian.
- Stop and look when approaching a corner before proceeding—look both ways.
- Walk on the right side of aisles.
- Keep well away from the lift truck and other motorized equipment to avoid getting pinned by the swing.
- Never ride as a passenger on a piece of powered equipment.
- Stay off of the tilt mechanism.
- Keep hands away from the mast and pulleys on a lift truck.
- Never walk or stand under the mast or load of a lift truck.
- Know that forks on a parked lift truck pose a tripping hazard. Raised forks pose a strike-against or spearing hazard.
- If on a ramp, be cautious of a lift truck. You could be pinned or struck by a load.
- Be aware of stacking procedures. You could be struck by falling loads—on both sides of the racking.
- Know that a backing lift truck poses a hazard.

What OSHA standards apply for operator training for use of power industrial trucks?

OSHA standards that apply include: 1910.178 (1), 1915.120 (a), 1917.1 (a)(2)(xiv), 1918.1 (b)(10), and 1926.602 (d).

Through the OSHA and National Safety Council (NSC) Alliance, NSC developed this fact sheet for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. May 2011.