

WORKING SAFELY ON FORKLIFTS

Operator, Loading, And Truck Safety

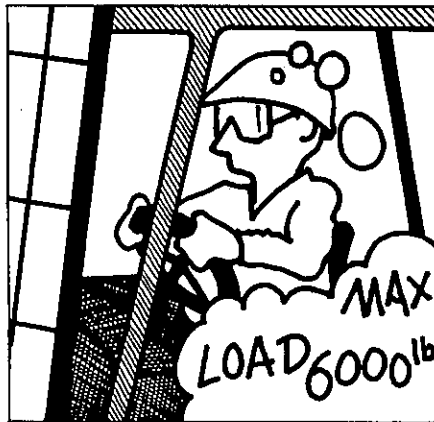
It's hard to imagine what warehouses were like in the days before lift trucks. Forklifts have made it possible to handle and transport heavy loads quicker and more efficiently than ever before. But, forklifts can also be dangerous to both people and property when operated incorrectly. Follow your company's safety guidelines for lift truck operation and take a moment to review these basic rules for lift truck safety.

Operator Safety

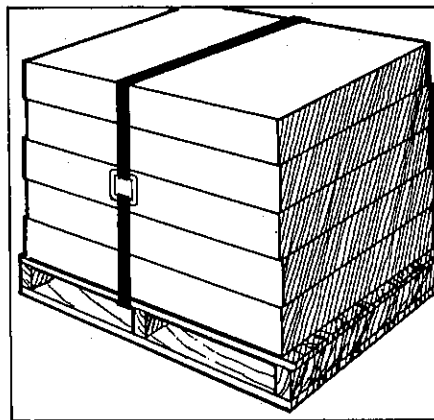
Most forklift accidents result from operator error so it's crucial that you not attempt to operate a lift truck unless you are trained to do so. (Forklifts differ in design, load capacity, and other features, so training on the particular truck you'll be using is always recommended.) When operating the truck, be sure to keep your hands and feet inside and always wear your seatbelt regardless of how far you're going. Check your pathway for obstacles, and keep away from heavy traffic areas. Always check for pedestrians!

Loading Safety

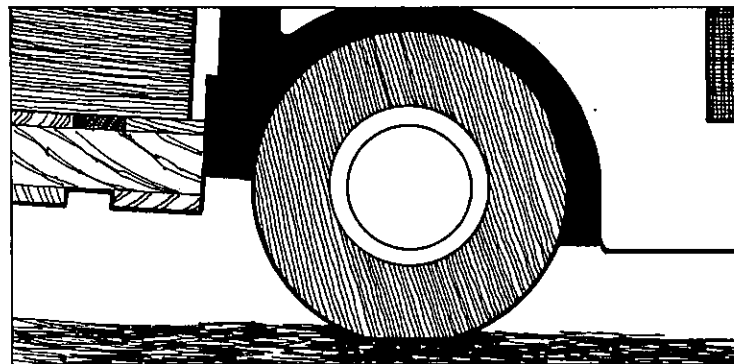
Before loading and transporting material, make sure that pallets are well-stacked and secure. Don't cut corners by overloading—make additional trips if necessary. Before driving into trailers, rail cars, or trucks always make sure that the vehicle you're unloading has been secured—chocks ahead of wheels and/or trailer restraint systems



Find out the load capacity for your vehicle and adhere to it.



Make sure that pallets are well-stacked and secure.



When moving, keep the load no more than 6-10 inches off the floor.

intact. (Trailer movement is a leading cause of loading accidents.)

Lift Truck Safety

Know your lift truck's capabilities before you drive it. Check with your supervisor to be sure that your truck meets ANSI (American National Standards Institute) safety requirements. Find out the load capacity for your vehicle and adhere to it. When transporting material, be sure to keep the load no more than 6-10 inches off the floor and use extreme caution when turning. Check your truck before and after use for worn or damaged parts. Report repairs to your supervisor immediately.

General Guidelines

Working safely on forklifts includes operator, loading, and lift truck safety. It also includes being aware of potential hazards (pedestrian traffic, unstable loads, etc.) and how to correct them before an accident can occur. By taking personal responsibility for safety, you can make your warehouse a safe place to work.

