



# Timber Times

Partners for Healthy Forests

JANUARY 2017

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Powered Industrial Trucks
- Standards
- Facts and Stats
- Daily Inspection Checklist
- Preventing Injuries
- Helpful Links

## Safety Flyer

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Hello All,

Logging is dangerous work, and safety has always been a primary focus for CTIA. I hope these monthly safety flyers contribute to your company safety program and to the safety of you and your crews.

Please share this safety flyer with your employees, contractors, or fellow loggers. If you'll send me their email address, we'll add them to our list. Our goal is safety for every logger, trucker, and mill worker in Colorado.

If you find an interesting article or an OSHA related issue, please share with me so I send to our email list or incorporate into a future Safety Flyer.

Molly

The Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA) is an association of small, family-owned businesses committed to logging, processing and performing service work in the forests of Colorado. We are exceptional partners to the public and private stewards of our valuable and beautiful forests. We embrace Best Management Practices (BMPs) and sustainable forestry. To meet these values, we host annual continuing education classes on BMPs and conduct field audits to demonstrate our accountability to high quality, active management designed to promote long term forest health.

# Powered Industrial Trucks - Forklifts

## What are powered industrial trucks?

Powered industrial trucks, commonly called forklifts or lift trucks, are used in many industries, primarily to move materials. They can also be used to raise, lower, or remove large objects or a number of smaller objects on pallets or in boxes, crates, or other containers. Powered industrial trucks can either be ridden by the operator or controlled by a walking operator. Over-the-road haulage trucks and [earth-moving equipment that has been modified to accept forks](#) are not considered powered industrial trucks.

## What are the hazards associated with operating powered industrial trucks?

There are many types of powered industrial trucks. Each type presents different operating hazards. For example, a sit-down, counterbalanced high-lift rider truck is more likely than a motorized hand truck to be involved in a falling load accident because the sit-down rider truck can lift a load much higher than a hand truck. Workplace type and conditions are also factors in hazards commonly associated with powered industrial trucks. For example, retail establishments often face greater challenges than other worksites in maintaining pedestrian safety. Beyond that, many workers can also be injured when:

- Lift trucks are inadvertently driven off loading docks;
- Lifts fall between docks and an unsecured trailer;
- They are struck by a lift truck;
- They fall while on elevated pallets and tines.

**It is a violation of Federal law for anyone UNDER 18 years of age to operate a forklift or for anyone OVER 18 years of age who is not properly trained and certified to do so.**



## What can be done to reduce the hazards related to powered industrial trucks?

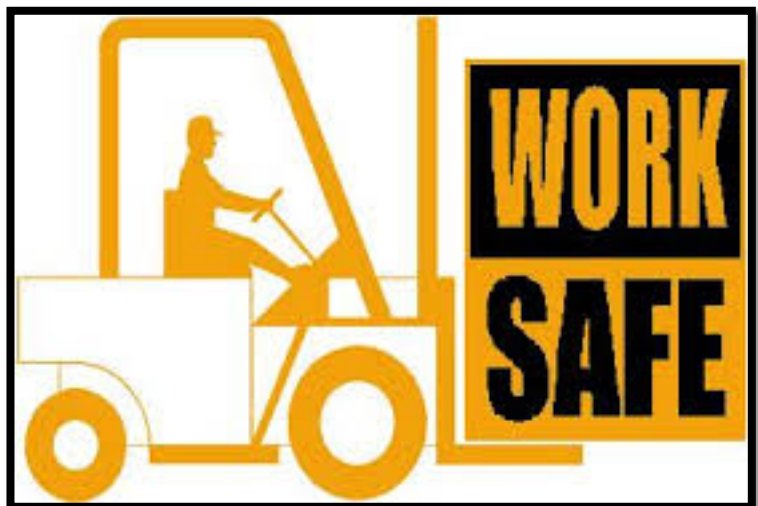
Determining the best way to protect workers from injury largely depends on the type of truck operated and the worksite where it is being used. Employers must ensure that each powered industrial truck operator is competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely, as demonstrated by the successful completion of the training and evaluation specified in [29 CFR 1910.178\(l\)\(1\)](#).

# Standards

Powered industrial trucks are addressed in specific standards for the general industry, construction, marine terminals, and longshoring. This section highlights OSHA standards, Federal Register notices (rules and proposed rules), directives (instruction to OSHA staff), and letters of interpretation (official letters of interpretation of the standards) related to powered industrial trucks. OSHA compliance information that applies to specific activities is also available, including: [Loading and Unloading](#), [Working with Hazardous Materials](#), and [Vehicle Maintenance](#). For additional citation information by industry group, see [Frequently Cited OSHA Standards](#). Standards published by other federal agencies, as well as, consensus standards related to powered industrial truck hazards are included for reference.

## General Industry ([29 CFR 1910](#))

- [1910.178](#), Powered industrial trucks
  - [1910.178\(a\)\(2\)](#) (General design and construction standards)
  - [1910.178\(a\)\(3\)](#) (Labeling)
  - [1910.178\(a\)\(7\)](#) (Approved truck)
  - [1910.178\(f\)\(1\)](#) (Storage and handling of liquid fuels)
  - [1910.178\(f\)\(2\)](#) (Storage and handling of liquid petroleum gas)
  - [1910.178\(i\)\(1\)](#) (Carbon monoxide levels)
  - [1910.178\(j\)](#) (Dockboards)



# Forklift Safety: Facts and Stats

How many workers are injured each year as a result of forklift misuse? We could say “too many,” but to be precise, the total number of injuries per year (non-serious, serious, and fatal) is 96,785. That’s right, nearly 100,000 workers are injured per year due to improper training or sheer carelessness on the job. Compared to the estimated number of forklifts in the United States (855,900), that means that each year, more than 1 in 10 forklifts are involved in an accident (assuming 1 accident per forklift).

- 855,900 forklifts in the U.S.
- 11% of forklifts will be involved in an accident

## **Forklift Accidents**

- 61,800 non-serious accidents per year
- 34,900 accidents resulting in serious injury
- 85 **FATAL** accidents per year

## **Types of Fatal Accidents**

- 42% - Crushed by vehicle tipping over
- 25% - Crushed between vehicle and a surface
- 11% - Crushed between two vehicles
- 10% - Struck or run over by a forklift
- 8% - Struck by falling material
- 4% - fall from platform on the forks

## **Fatal Forklift Accidents by Industry**

- 42.5% - Manufacturing
- 23.8% - Construction
- 12.5% - Wholesale Trades
- 11% - Transportation
- 9% - Retail Trade
- 1.2% - Mining

## **Forklift Safety and Training**

- 70% of all forklift accidents could be avoided with proper training and policy!!

# Daily Inspection Checklist

- Is the horn working? Sounds the horn at intersections and wherever vision is obstructed.
- Are there hydraulic leaks in the mast or elsewhere? These could cause slipping hazards or lead to hydraulic failure.
- Are fuel connections tight and battery terminals covered? Dropping a piece of metal across battery terminals can cause an explosion.
- Are there lint, grease, oil or other material on the forklift that could catch on fire?
- Do sparks or flames come out from the exhaust system?
- Does the engine show signs of overheating?
- Are tires at proper pressure and free of damage? A tire with low pressure or a tire failure can cause a forklift to tip or fall when a load is high.
- Do all controls such as lift, lower, and tilt work smoothly?
- Are there any deformation or cracks in the forks, mast, overhead guard, or backrest?
- Are lights operating if used at night or in dark locations?
- Is steering responsive? A lot of play or hard steering will reduce your control?
- Do brakes stop smoothly and reliably? Sudden stops can cause tipping.
- Does the parking brake hold the forklift on an incline?
- Are seat belts (if equipped) working and accessible?
- Is the load capacity plate readable?



# Preventing Injuries and Deaths

- Do not operate a forklift unless you have been trained and licensed
- Use seatbelts if they are available.
- Report to your supervisor any damage or problems that occur to a forklift during your shift.
- Do not jump from an overturning, sit-down type forklift. Stay with the truck, holding on firmly and leaning in the opposite direction of the overturn.
- Exit from a stand-up type forklift with rear-entry access by stepping backward if a lateral tip over occurs.
- Use extreme caution on grades or ramps.
- On grades, tilt the load back and raise it only as far as needed to clear the road surface.
- Do not raise or lower the forks while the forklift is moving.
- Do not handle loads that are heavier than the weight capacity of the forklift.
- Operate the forklift at a speed that will permit it to be stopped safely.
- Slow down and sound the horn at cross aisles and other locations where vision is obstructed.
- Look toward the travel path and keep a clear view of it.
- Do not allow passengers to ride on forklift trucks unless a seat is provided.
- When dismounting from a forklift, set the parking brake, lower the forks or lifting carriage, and neutralize the controls.
- Do not drive up to anyone standing in front of a bench or other fixed object.
- Do not use a forklift to elevate workers who are standing on the forks.
- Elevate a worker on a platform only when the vehicle is directly below the work area.
- Whenever a truck is used to elevate personnel, secure the elevating platform to the lifting carriage or forks of the forklift.
- Use a restraining means such as rails, chains, or a body belt with a lanyard or deceleration device for the worker(s) on the platform.
- Do not drive to another location with the work platform elevated.





# Helpful Links

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/pit/operations/maneuvering.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/poweredinustrialtrucks/index.html>

[https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/pit/daily\\_pit\\_checklist.html](https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/pit/daily_pit_checklist.html)

[https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/pit/pit\\_checklist.html](https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/pit/pit_checklist.html)

<http://www.americantrainingresources.com/forklift-training>

