



Forklift Safety

It is easy to forget how dangerous they are. There are thousands of forklift accidents every year.

■ **Unsafe forklift driving can lead to serious injuries – and worse**

- Forklift accidents account for 100 fatalities and 95,000 injuries annually
- The causes: tipovers, hazardous driving, unbalanced loads, struck-bys and more

■ **Properly inspect lifts before and during operation**

- Check structure: cage and overhead guards, forks, tires, fluid levels
- Examine mechanisms: horns and warning lights, battery, decals, plates, manuals, brakes
- Test controls: steering and hydraulics
- While driving: gauges, brakes
- Report any defect; remove from service if necessary

■ **Load the forklift safely**

- Look out for damaged pallets or unsecured loads
- Keep the load low and tilted backwards while driving
- Don't exceed load capacity height or weight

■ **In case of tipover**

- NEVER jump from the cab
- Buckle up, grip the wheel and brace your feet
- Lean forward and in the opposite direction of the tipping angle

■ **Lifting employees**

- Should never be done without a personnel platform attachment
- Attachments must include guardrails, fall protection and PPE for employees
- Additional training is required

■ **Be aware of the environment**

- Ground conditions
- Ramps and inclines
- Pedestrians and blind corners
- Enclosed spaces and carbon monoxide exposure