



## GOALS

This safety session should teach employees to:

- Be aware of risks to pedestrians working around forklifts.
- Know ways for pedestrians and forklift operators to prevent accidents.

### Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.178



#### 1. Forklift-pedestrian accidents can be serious.

- Forklifts are often operated in areas where other workers are doing their jobs.
- Accidents involving forklifts and pedestrians can occur if a:
  - Forklift collides with a person.
  - Forklift drops a load or partial load on a person.
  - Worker stands on or walks under elevated forklift parts.
  - Worker climbs on, hangs from, or fools around close to a forklift.
- Forklift operators and those who work around forklifts are both responsible for preventing forklift-pedestrian accidents.

#### 2. Forklift operators must obey traffic rules.

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permits only specially trained and authorized workers to operate forklifts.
- Forklift operators must know and follow traffic rules that can help prevent accidents, including those involving pedestrians.

Safety rules that can prevent accidents with pedestrians include:

- Obey speed limits.
- Maintain a speed that will allow you to stop safely as needed.
- Stay at least three truck lengths behind the vehicle in front of you.
- Yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles.
- Slow down if the floor is wet or slippery.
- Slow down when making turns by turning the steering wheel in a smooth, sweeping motion.
- Slow down and sound the horn at cross aisles or places with poor visibility.
- Slow down to climb upgrade or travel downgrade.
- Don't pass other trucks at intersections, blind spots, or other dangerous locations.

#### 3. Forklift operators must follow sensible safety precautions.

OSHA states that forklift drivers must take precautions such as these:

- Look in the direction of your travel route and keep it clearly in view.
- Don't drive up to anyone standing in front of a bench or other fixed object.
- Don't let anyone stand or go under the truck's elevated portion, even if it's empty.
- Stay a safe distance from the edge of ramps or platforms.
- Don't overload the forklift; stay within its rated capacity.



- Set brakes and place wheel blocks while loading or unloading to prevent movement.
- Don't indulge in stunt driving or horseplay.

#### 4. Pedestrians must be alert when forklifts are in the work area.

- Always remember that forklifts are operating in your work area.
  - Don't take their presence for granted.
- Try to keep track of where the forklifts are and what they're doing.
  - Become familiar with the regular routes they travel and tasks they perform.
  - Take extra care if it's noisy and you can't hear horns or other signals.
- Don't assume that the forklift operator sees you or realizes what you're doing or where you're going.
- Follow basic traffic safety practices.
  - Look both ways before crossing an aisle.
  - Respond promptly to a forklift horn or other signal.

#### 5. Follow forklift safety rules for pedestrians at all times.

- Don't ride on a forklift unless you're authorized and in a place where riders are permitted.
- Don't ride on a forklift's forks under any circumstances.
- Don't stand on or pass under a forklift's elevated parts, even if it's empty.
- Don't place yourself where you could risk being pushed against a wall by a forklift.
- Don't fool around with or distract a forklift operator.
- Don't smoke around areas where forklifts are being fueled.

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#### DISCUSSION POINTS:



Ask participants to provide examples of forklift-pedestrian accidents that could happen in your work area and what they could do to prevent them.

#### CONCLUSION:



- Operators and pedestrians must be alert to prevent accidents.
- When you operate or work around forklifts, it's important not to take them for granted and to be alert and safety-conscious at all times.

#### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:



Have your employees take the Forklifts and Pedestrian Safety quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their ability to understand the safety responsibilities of operators and pedestrians and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



## FORKLIFT & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY QUIZ

- Forklift and pedestrian accidents can occur when:**
  - A forklift and pedestrian collide
  - A forklift drops a load on a pedestrian
  - A pedestrian stands on elevated forklift parts
  - All of the above
- If there's an accident involving a forklift and a pedestrian, it's always the operator's fault.**
  - True
  - False
- The occupational Safety and health Administration (OSHA) has no special requirements for forklift operator training.**
  - True
  - False
- To prevent accidents, forklift operators are expected to slow down when:**
  - They're not very busy.
  - They come to an intersection.
  - They want to fool around with another worker.
- When a forklift operator reaches a cross aisle, the operator should:**
  - Speed across.
  - Assume everyone can see the vehicle.
  - Slow down and sound a horn.
- Forklift operators must not drive up to someone standing in front of a fixed object.**
  - True
  - False
- Stunt driving and horseplay aren't permitted on or around forklifts.**
  - True
  - False
- Pedestrians can help prevent accidents with forklifts by:**
  - Letting drivers take full responsibility
  - Refusing to work when forklifts are operating
  - Staying aware of the location and activities of forklifts in the work area
- Pedestrians can always assume that forklift operators are fully aware of who and what is going on around them.**
  - True
  - False
- Pedestrians can safely ride on or walk under elevated forklift forks.**
  - True
  - False

When you have completed this quiz, turn it in to your supervisor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**ANSWERS TO FORKLIFT & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY QUIZ**

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1. d. All are potential forklift-pedestrian accident scenarios.
2. b. False. Both operator and pedestrians are responsible for preventing such accidents.
3. b. False. OSHA permits only trained people to operate forklifts, and has very specific requirements for what they must learn and know.
4. b. They come to an intersection.
5. c. Slow down and sound a horn.
6. a. True.
7. a. True.
8. c. Staying aware of the location and activities of forklifts in the work area.
9. b. False. Pedestrians have to be alert to where forklifts are and what they're doing and can't assume that the operators are aware of who's around them.
10. b. False. OSHA specifically says they cannot do that.