



Equipment Safety: Forklifts

OSHA estimates that hundreds of thousands of injuries and fatalities involving forklifts occur in the United States each year.

Ricky and Bill's Story

Ricky was using a forklift to move a load of drywall panels. Bill, another worker, noticed materials on the ground that he thought were blocking the forklift's path. He stepped out in front of the forklift, forcing Ricky to stop suddenly. When the forklift stopped, the drywall panels fell off and struck Bill, breaking his leg.

- ✖ What caused this incident?
- ✖ How could this have been prevented?
- ✖ Have you ever been injured around a forklift, or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- **Do not** operate a forklift **unless** you have been trained and certified.
- Inspect the forklift every day before use. If damage or problems occur with the forklift during your shift, tell your supervisor.
- Use seat belts if they are available.
- Exit from a rear-entry, stand-up forklift by stepping backward, in case of a lateral tip-over.
- Use **extreme caution** on grades and 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 lift is moving.
- **Do not** drive up to anyone standing in front of a bench or other fixed object. Travel backward with the load if you cannot see in front of you. Also, look toward the travel path and keep a clear view of it.
- Sound the horn as you approach and while turning corners where you cannot see.
- Band or secure loads if they could fall.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent forklift injuries?

OSHA Standard: 1910.178 (applies to construction)



Equipment Safety: Forklifts

**Use extreme
caution on ramps.**



- Do not** operate a forklift **unless** you have been trained and certified.
- Use **extreme caution** on grades and ramps.
- Do not** raise or lower the forks while the forklift is moving.

**GET
INFORMATION**

CDC/NIOSH INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-800-232-6348 | cdc.gov/info | cdc.gov/niosh

CPWR: Contact 301-578-8500 | cpwr-r2p@cpwr.com | www.cpwr.com/toolbox-talks

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2022-147 | DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26616/NIOSHPUB2022147> | August 2022