

Spotlight On Safety

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FORKLIFT SAFETY



The most important safety device that is on your forklift is YOU! Stay alert; watch out for others, as well as yourself. Monitor the condition of your truck and the area you are working in. Wear safety equipment when needed. Watch for NO SMOKING areas. Never use drugs or alcohol before coming to work or on the job, be careful of over-the-counter or prescription drugs that may impair your ability to operate your lift truck safely. Remember that safety is the most important part of your job when operating a lift truck. Below are more safety tips.

General Safety Tips

- Watch where you place your hands and feet - be aware of and stay clear of pinch points
- Stay under the overhead guard - it is designed to protect you while you operate the truck (staying in your truck includes your hands and feet)
- If your truck starts to tip over - DON'T JUMP!
 - Stay in your seat, and go with the truck
 - Grip the wheel securely
 - Brace yourself with your feet
- Always look out for others before moving your forklift - as you drive, watch out for people walking, and at intersections, slow down, look for traffic, and sound your horn frequently
- ALWAYS come to a complete stop before changing direction
- Never let anyone, including yourself, walk or stand under the forks when they are raised
- You must never allow anyone to ride on your lift truck
- Never attempt to lift anyone on your forks without using a special basket designed for lifting people safely
- Remember, it's your forklift - never let unauthorized personnel use it, and always remove the key when you have to leave your forklift unattended

Safety Devices

- Seat belt: most lift trucks are equipped with a seat belt - use it!
- Horn: sound your horn:
 1. Before backing up
 2. At intersections
 3. When traveling through doors
 4. Anywhere your vision is limited or blocked
- Backup alarm: some trucks are equipped with a backup alarm that warns others that you are backing up - don't forget to turn around, look, and sound your horn whenever you backup
- Warning light: some trucks are equipped with a yellow warning light that warns others that you are approaching, even at a distance

Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information or call 951-827-5528 if you have any questions.