

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

No. 48

Vol. 21

Week of 11/27/2023

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

FORKLIFTS

Forklifts sure make life easier on the construction site. These powered industrial trucks move materials like form lumber, concrete blocks, mortar, pipe, scaffold frames, trash boxes, gas cylinders, and much more. Forklifts come in a variety of sizes, and may be powered by gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, or electric batteries.

Only qualified and properly trained personnel should be permitted to operate forklifts. Operators must be familiar with the lifting and maneuvering capabilities of the equipment. If your forklift has removable or adjustable counterweights, you must take the current configuration into account when determining its capability. Make sure that the forklift is in good, safe operating condition — check all controls, the tires, the forks (especially if they are adjustable); look for hydraulic leaks; and always make sure that the backup alarm is working properly.

Always be alert when you are actually moving a load. Watch for powerlines — if there are any around, keep your distance. If you drive into or out of buildings pay special attention to the heights of overhead doors, beams, ductwork, cables and pipes. Running into one of these structures can cause very expensive damage to the building and can also knock the load off the forklift.

Stay alert whenever you're working around a forklift. When you hear a backup alarm at least look up to see where it's coming from and make sure that you're out of the way. You hear those beeps all day long as equipment moves around the jobsite; and it's easy to just tune them out. Those backup alarms are making that irritating noise to alert you to danger. Pay attention to them! The operator's view may be partially blocked by the load. Take responsibility for your own safety — stay out of the way so that the forklift **cannot** hit you. Never walk or stand under a suspended load even if the forklift is parked. Try to stay far enough away so that even if part of the load falls, you won't be hurt. If you are spotting for the driver make sure that your feet are clear of the load when it is lowered.

Operating a forklift is a serious matter; it's not just a cart that can lift things. Make sure that you know what you're doing before you get in the driver's seat. For more information see OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1926.602.

SAFETY REMINDER

**When operating a forklift avoid jerking the load,
and always raise and lower loads slowly.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These Instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.