

Forklift Safety



855,900
forklifts in the U.S.

11%

of forklifts will be involved in an accident

Forklift Accidents

61,800

non-serious accidents per year

34,900

accidents resulting in serious injury

85

fatal accidents per year

Types of Fatal Accidents

• Crushed by vehicle tipping over	42%
• Crushed between vehicle and a surface	25%
• Crushed between two vehicles	11%
• Struck or run over by a forklift	10%
• Struck by falling material	8%
• Fall from platform on the forks	4%

Fatal Forklift Accidents By Industry

• Manufacturing	42.5%
• Construction	23.8%
• Wholesale Trades	12.5%
• Transportation	11%
• Retail Trade	9%
• Mining	1.2%

Forklift Safety & Training

70% of all forklift accidents could be avoided with proper training and policy

Daily Inspection Checklist

- Is the horn working? Sound the horn at intersections and wherever vision is obstructed.
- Are there hydraulic leaks in the mast or elsewhere? These could cause slipping hazards or lead to hydraulic failure.
- Are fuel connections tight and battery terminals covered? Dropping a piece of metal across battery terminals can cause an explosion.
- Are there lint, grease, oil or other material on the forklift that could catch on fire?
- Do sparks or flames come out from the exhaust system?
- Does the engine show signs of overheating?
- Are tires at proper pressure and free of damage? A tire with low pressure or a tire failure can cause a forklift to tip or fall when a load is high.
- Do all controls such as lift, lower, and tilt work smoothly?
- Are there any deformation or cracks in the forks, mast, overhead guard, or backrest?
- Are lights operating if used at night or in dark locations?
- Is steering responsive? A lot of play or hard steering will reduce your control.
- Do brakes stop smoothly and reliably? Sudden stops can cause tipping.
- Does the parking brake hold the forklift on an incline?
- Are seat belts (if equipped) working and accessible?
- Is the load capacity plate readable?

Sources:

OSHA – www.osha.gov

Industrial Truck Association – www.indtrk.org