

## **Toolbox Talk # 13.01 – Forklift Safety**

Much of the equipment in use on construction projects can create dangerous conditions for construction workers. You know that a few of these conditions are present at all times -- any piece of moving equipment should be respected. When working around a forklift keep a sharp lookout -- DON'T DEPEND on the lift operator being able to see you, and DON'T DEPEND on hearing a horn or back-up alarm as surrounding noise may prevent this. When a forklift is traveling backwards, the operator usually cannot see you, SO STAND CLEAR!

The operator must be familiar with the manufacturer's operating instructions. Prior to starting the equipment give it a quick once over. Check the engine oil level, radiator water level and the fuel level. Look at the tires; check both the parking and service brakes. Check the hydraulic lines for leaks and test the horn. When traveling from point to point never speed. A 'jack rabbit' start or stop may cause an accident. When carrying a load always face the destination of travel and keep a sharp look out for low overhead obstructions. Never allow co-workers to ride on the forks. Never attempt to pick up more than the rated capacity of the machine. Wear the seat belt if one is provided. When picking up a load try to place the forks so the load is square, and make sure the material that you are carrying is -secure and won't fall off during travel.

An operator must always watch out for others. Be aware of what is going on. Be alert. Never allow an unauthorized person to operate your machine. Keep others away from your operation. Never allow anyone to stand or pass under the load/working platform. Never drive your machine up to someone standing in front of a fixed object. Know the pinch and wrap points on your equipment. Keep others away from articulation joints, masts, lift chains, cylinders, etc. Keep all shields and guards in place.

Only trained operators should operate the lift. To be authorized to operate a forklift you must understand the written instructions supplied by the manufacturer, have training, including actual operation of the machine and know the safety rules and regulations for the jobsite. An untrained operator is a danger to all those working in the area.

As with any other piece of equipment, never smoke during refueling. Avoid working around low electrical lines. Should you ever have a question about a forklift, ask your supervisor. A forklift is a piece of equipment especially designed to help you with your work -- don't let it be a source of an injury -- treat it with respect.

## Toolbox Talk # 13.01 – Forklift Safety

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Other safety issues covered or comments from crew members:

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### Attendees:

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