

FORKLIFT SAFETY

It is important to know how to safely operate your forklift. Here are some of the key things that you need to know.

Training

Get training on the class of forklift that you operate. There are 7 classes:

- I:** Electric Motor Rider
- II:** Electric Motor Narrow Aisle
- III:** Electric Motor Hand or Hand/Rider
- IV:** Internal Combustion Engine: Cushion Tires
- V:** Internal Combustion Engine: Pneumatic Tires
- VI:** Electric & Internal Combustion Engine Tractors
- VII:** Rough Terrain



Drive Safely

- *Slow down** especially around corners/no sudden stops.
- *Keep your entire body inside** your truck at all times.
- *Keep forks as low as possible** on flat surfaces & tilted back.
- *Don't overload** the forklift.
- *Position loads** according to the recommended load centre.
- *Point forks downhill** if you are not carrying a load & uphill if you are carrying a load on an incline.



Pedestrians

- *Be Aware:** Pedestrians pay attention / operators slow down.
- *Secure Your Loads:** Fully insert your forks under pallets, balance your loads, and don't travel with your forks too high to prevent tip overs.
- *Install Forklift Safety Lights:** Safety lights effectively warn pedestrians of approaching forklifts indicating their precise location.



Safety Checks

- *Perform a pre-start safety check** at the beginning of your shift including both a visual (tires, forks, mast, chain, etc.) and an operational check (brakes, lights, horn, engine, etc.).
- *Use an actual list** to check off each item as you look at it.



Hazards

Be aware of the following hazards:

- *Obstacles** or debris
- *Pipe leaks** or other leaks
- *Overhead obstacles**
- *Unsafe/unsecured ramps**
- *Uneven/uneven floor**
- *Aisles too narrow** to maneuver safely
- *Difficult corners** to navigate
- *Unmarked walkways**



REFERENCES

https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/forklift/checks.html
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/workplace-health-and-safety>
<https://acuteservices.com/lift-truck-safety-what-you-need-to-know/>