

FORKLIFT SAFETY



Forklifts are crucial to any organization and they are the work horse that does all the heavy lifting that we can't or don't want to.

Although forklifts are useful they are also dangerous pieces of equipment. Thousands of forklift injury's occur each year. Some resulting in death. This is why forklift safety is so important. The more you know the safer you will be. This is why it is required that forklift operators be trained and authorized to operate one.

THE BASICS

Every forklift is fit with a name plate. The name plate provides the operator with the name and model number of the forklift. The name plate also includes the weight capacity for a load, the ideal load center and the max height for that load.

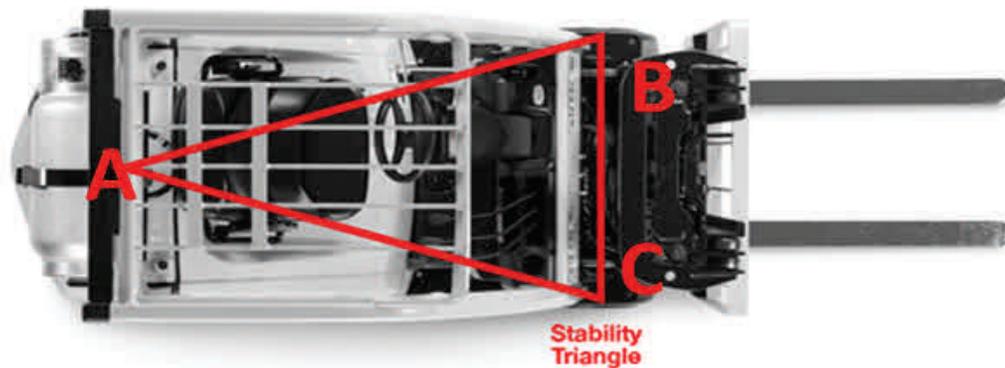


When mounting a forklift always face the unit and use three points of contact: Two hands and one foot. Never use the steering wheel as leverage. Use the safety handles.

KNOW YOUR CENTER OF GRAVITY

OF GRAVITY

To avoid tipping over the operator must know where their center of gravity is. The operator can do this by using the stability triangle.



Once the operator has the load, to keep from tipping the operator must be mindful of their speed, breaking, cornering, lifting, tilting and lowering. All should be done slowly and with the utmost caution.

The higher and heavier the load the closer the center of gravity moves forward towards points B and C. If the center of gravity point passes points B and C the forklift could tip forward.

Never attempt to jump out of a forklift if it is tipping over. This could result in serious injury or death.

in case of Tip-Over



Lean in the opposite direction of the overturn

Hold on tight to steering wheel and brace feet

Stay in the seat, DON'T jump!

SAFELY OPERATING A FORKLIFT

Pedestrians always have the right of way. Always honk the horn when approaching an intersection, at any blind spots, and when entering and exiting indoor areas.

When driving on inclines or ramps always approach straight on. Keep the load on the up hill side. Never turn on a ramp or incline.

- Don't let anyone walk under the forks with or without a load
- Never let another person ride on the forklift
- Keep all limbs inside the forklift while in motion



PARKING



- Never park in front of walk ways, stairs or fire exits
- Lower forks to the ground so they do not become a tripping hazard
- If parking on an incline, use wheel stoppers

CONCLUSION

Forklifts are powerful tools that are used to keep the operations of a business running smoothly. They are also dangerous machines unless used by authorized, skilled and responsible operators. It is up to the operator to avoid any problems that might endanger themselves, other people or the load that is being moved. Never operate a forklift unless you have had the proper training that is required by OSHA.

- Employers must ensure that each powered industrial truck operator is competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely, as demonstrated by the successful completion of the training and evaluation specified in [29 CFR 1910.178\(l\)\(1\)](#).

-www.osha.gov/SLTC/powerindustrialtrucks/

Follow the rules each and every time you operate a forklift

