



Safety Matters

Talking Points for

Cool Insuring Agency, Inc.: Your construction workplace safety partner

Lift Gate Safety

It is very important that you take safety procedures seriously when using lift gates on-site—they are powerful devices. Lift gates can be dangerous to both you and the materials we work with, but if you take proper precautions, you and co-workers can stay safe.

Uses of Lift Gates

Lift gates are designed to load and unload cargo. If you use a lift gate for any other purpose, you are risking injury or death. Never use a lift gate as a jack or to pull or push other objects. It is not designed to plow snow, shear or break other objects.

Safety Guidelines

- Read the lift gate operator's manual and follow all directions.
- Maintain the lift gate as is recommended in the manufacturer's instructions.
- Inspect the lift gate daily to ensure there is no damage. If you find wear and tear, notify your manager immediately.
- Never let anyone who hasn't been trained operate the lift gate.
- Identify pinch points on the lift gate and avoid them to stay safe.
- Never leave the platform of the lift gate open while the vehicle is moving.
- Secure top-heavy items with ratchet straps.
- Never put a piece of freight in motion that is beyond your ability to

control once it starts moving. Recruit extra help to put more hands on risky freight.

- Use proper devices, such as a pallet jack, tripod dollies or platform dollies, to move materials on the gate.
- If unloading in a busy street, use safety cones to block the lane, wear reflective vests and create safe space in which to work.
- In rain, cover materials with a waterproof tarp and wrap it securely like you would a furniture pad or shrink wrap. This allows you to take your time when using the gate.
- Stay focused, and never rush.
- Always have an escape plan. Anticipate how items may go out of control and where they would fall. Be prepared to get out of the way to keep from getting hurt.

Keep in Touch

If you have any questions or concerns about lift gate safety on site, do not hesitate to contact your supervisor. Your safety is the first priority at .

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When using lift gates, as with all equipment on site, it is extremely important that you pay attention to safety procedures.

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