

# safety matters

Construction  
Toolbox Talks for

From your safety partners at Cool Insuring Agency, Inc.

## Safety Tips for Forklift Drivers

Forklifts, also called powered industrial trucks, help us perform essential tasks at the job site, but they are also quite dangerous. Driving a forklift is a serious responsibility and should not be taken lightly. Forklift drivers at must be properly trained and follow all safety procedures and precautions.

Below are some of the basic safety practices that we expect our forklift drivers to observe.

### Maintenance

- Each day, check that the truck is ready for the day's work and perform any necessary maintenance before operating.
- Report any malfunction or poor performance to your supervisor immediately.

### Loading

- Use reverse when going down inclines and go forward up inclines.
- Do not travel with the load elevated, and keep the load stable and as close to the floor as possible.
- Avoid raising or lowering a load while the truck is moving.
- Always keep the load tilted back towards the carriage while raising and lowering.
- Make sure the load is balanced and is within the capacity of the truck.
- Never use the forks as a personnel

elevator unless properly equipped.

### Driving

- Always make sure your driving path is clear.
- Slow down for corners, blind spots and doorways.
- Drive defensively by always being aware of your surroundings and watching for the unexpected.
- Be aware of ground conditions and always take the smoothest possible path.
- Never try to turn on an incline.
- Cross tracks diagonally and slow down for uneven surfaces.
- Keeps legs, arms, feet, hands and head inside the truck.
- Be aware of others around the job site, in case they do not see you.
- Always give those on foot the right of way.
- Stay out from under forks and loads.
- Never show off or use the machine for anything other than your specified job tasks.
- Never give anyone a ride or allow anyone who is untrained to operate the forklift.

**For the safety of everyone on the job site, please observe all proper safety precautions when operating a forklift.**

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In order to ensure your safety and the safety of everyone in our workplace, it is important that all forklift drivers operate their machinery responsibly and with safety in mind.