

# Working Around Forklifts

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Working around forklifts presents a multitude of potential hazards. Here is a brief overview of some common hazards associated with working around this equipment and steps you can take to minimize those hazards to protect yourself and others:

- **Struck by forklift:** It is commonly stated that "Pedestrians have the right-of-way" when working near forklifts. The sheer weight of these vehicles makes them difficult to stop quickly, with or without a load. Be on the lookout for forklift traffic and give them plenty of room. Always make eye contact with the operator before crossing paths.
- **Caught between forklift and stationary object:** Never place yourself between the forklift and any stationary object, such as a workbench, trailer, vehicle, or materials. This unsafe act could put you in the path of the forks or the counterweight. Forklifts have varying and sometimes multiple steering options and could move in an unexpected direction.
- **Poor Visibility:** The operators limited visibility or blind spots can result in accidents. Especially when moving large loads and/or in congested areas. Take steps to accommodate these situations such as: designated forklift pathways vs pedestrian, drive lift in reverse or get a spotter.
- **Standing under elevated load:** Do not ever place yourself or body parts under the forks or a suspended load.
- **Hitching a ride on a forklift:** There is no safe or designated location for a passenger on a forklift. Only the operator, alone.
- **Unqualified operator error:** Inexperienced or unauthorized forklift operators may make mistakes that can endanger themselves or others. Do not operate a forklift if you are not trained. If you are trained but still unsure, read the manual and ask questions before continuing.

Before operating the forklift, ensure the daily forklift inspection has been completed.

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