
FORKLIFT/ HIGHLIFT/ FRONT LOADER SAFETY

A. Introduction

This section is applicable to all motorized equipment that has the capability to move items. This includes all forklifts, highlifts, front loaders and mobile elevators. All forms of this type of equipment will be referred to as “forklift” in this standard. The use and operation of all of this equipment shall be in a safe and prudent manner to protect the operator, passengers, pedestrians, and property of the City of Pittsburgh.

B. Requirements

Incorrect or careless “forklift” operation can cause serious accidents and even death. Only trained, authorized employees are permitted to operate “forklifts”. Departments with operations requiring the use of “forklifts” must make sure that employees receive detailed training specific to the vehicle used on that particular job before operating it. Training subject matter must include “forklift” types and their differences, uses, designs, limitations, parts and inspection procedures, safe loading, unloading, operation parking and refueling procedures. Employees who are required to use a “forklift” but receive “forklift” training prior to employment with the City of Pittsburgh are required to be re-trained before operating a “forklift” in one of our facilities.

C. Hazards of “forklifts”:

“Forklifts” often steer with the rear wheels and can tip easily. Operators or nearby employees can be injured or killed if a “forklift” tips over, falls off a loading dock, collides with or drops a load on equipment, a vehicle or another person. Other “forklift” hazards include operator injuries caused by jumping on and off a “forklift” and fires by improper refueling or recharging.

D. Safety Guidelines for “forklift” Operations:

- No passengers or riders on the “forklift”.
- “Forklifts” must be inspected – tires, brakes, steering, horn, forks, etc., before use each day or shift.
- The “forklift” operator must wear a seatbelt.
- Horseplay during “forklift” operation is prohibited.
- Keep arms, hands, and legs inside the truck.
- Beware of surface holes, uneven patches and overhead clearances.
- Don’t drive up to a person standing in front of a bench or any fixed object.
- Obey speed limits.
- Drive in the assigned lane or on the right.
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians.
- Sound the horn at intersections.
- Stay at least three truck lengths behind the vehicle in front of you.
- Slow down for turns.
- Stop before going in reverse.
- Don’t pass at intersections or blind spots.
- Under no circumstances is an employee permitted to ride directly on the truck’s forks or in a bucket.