

Safety using forklifts



PREVENTION. CARE. RECOVERY.

Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whara

A Road Freight Transport Injury Prevention Solution

The Problem

- Too many people are injured by forklifts while loading or unloading goods service vehicles.

Common Causes of Injury

- Crushing between forklift and truck deck.
- Run over by forklift.
- Amputation caused by fingers caught between mast sections.
- Forklift hitting pedestrians when turning.
- Falls from height when using forklift tines as a work platform.
- Hit by freight displaced by forklift.

Case Histories

- Worker crushed by falling freight from a truck being unloaded on a slope (camber), which caused the load to move off the tail lift.
- Worker hit by a turning forklift, caused by the operator not being aware of other workers near by.
- Worker hit by falling freight pushed off the top deck of a mezzanine floor by a hoist operator loading unit.
- Pedestrian hit by a forklift truck backing in a customer site.

Common Sense Solutions

- Keep freight handling equipment well maintained and ensure staff are trained in how to use it and what its limits are.
- Ensure appropriate personal protection equipment is worn, eg safety footwear, hi visibility vests and gloves.
- Maintain a clear zone around forklift operating areas.
- Support drivers who report unsafe delivery or pick-up locations.
- Use a personnel cage for access to high loading areas such as mezzanine floors.
- Report unsafe sites and hazards.
- Keep pedestrian zones clear and encourage their use.
- Set and enforce a safe speed limit for forklifts on your site.
- Know evacuation and emergency procedures for customer sites.



Common Sense Forklift Safety

If you use a forklift to load/unload your truck, here are some safe driving tips to avoid hitting pedestrians.

If you're moving a pallet that blocks your forward view, travel in reverse.



The Wrong Way

See how the pallet blocks your view when driving the forklift forward.



The Right Way

Driving the forklift backwards means your view is clear. Look what he couldn't see before – a pedestrian!



If we look at the situation from the side, it is even easier to see why we should always travel in reverse when a bulky load obscures vision.