



## OSHA ALERT

# Protect Workers Operating and Working Near Forklifts

Forklifts are an essential piece of equipment in many workplaces, especially in warehousing and manufacturing. Although these vehicles make work more efficient, they can pose serious hazards to those operating or working near them. OSHA reminds employers and workers that these hazards can be prevented by following safe practices and ensuring that workers are properly trained.

Taking the following steps can protect workers from forklift hazards.

- **Always** wear seatbelts when operating a forklift.
- **Never** exceed the rated load, and ensure [loads are balanced](#).
- **Make** sure you have enough clearance when raising and loading materials.
- **Watch** for [pedestrians](#) and observe speed limits.
- **Keep** a safe distance from platform and ramp edges.

For more information on ways to keep workers safe while working with or around forklifts, visit OSHA's [Powered Industrial Trucks – Forklifts](#) page.

OSHA's [On-Site Consultation Program](#) offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health compliance assistance to small- and medium-sized businesses. Consultation services are separate from enforcement and do not result in penalties or citations. The [OSHA Training Institute Education Centers](#) offer courses for workers, employers, and managers on hazard recognition and abatement at convenient locations nationwide.

*OSHA alerts are issued on occasion to draw attention to worker safety and health issues and solutions.*