

TOOLBOX TALKS

Lift Truck Safety

SAFETY.CAT.COM™

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site. For additional Toolbox Talks, please visit SAFETY.CAT.COM™

TOPIC: Lift Truck Safety

Introduction

The following Toolbox Talk is intended to give a general overview of the most common safety hazards and controls related to lift trucks (other names include fork trucks, forklifts, hysters, and others). It is not intended to address all safety hazards and controls. Always read and understand the operating manual before operating the first time

Lift Truck Safety Tips:

- Inspect the hydraulic hoses for leaks and wear.** If a hose were to fail while lifting, the load could fall and cause serious injury or death.
- Never overload the forks.** All lift trucks have a rating plate located somewhere near the seat or fueling point on the machine. Identify it and understand the rated capacities. If the rear tires come off the ground due to overloading, then steering and braking will be jeopardized.
- Lower the forks to the ground when not in use** to prevent tripping hazards.
- Operate the lift truck in reverse** if the load prevents a clear line of sight looking forward.
- If operating on a slope, make sure the load stays tightly against the mast.
- Operate the lift truck with the forks as close to the ground as possible. The important aspect here is to **keep the center of gravity as close to the ground as possible** to take advantage of counter-weights in the lift truck and avoid inadvertent tipping.
- Inspect ground conditions** at all times to avoid holes and uneven terrain.
- Before refueling or changing propane tanks, make sure valves are closed and secured to **avoid inadvertent fuel splashes** to the eye and skin.
- Wear the seat belt and do not leave the cab of the lift truck if it starts to tip.** Lift trucks can tip in an unpredictable manner due to their shape and disproportional weight. The most serious lift truck accidents occur when operators try to leave the machine while it's tipping over.

Questions to Generate Discussion

- Why is it important to travel with the load as close to the ground as possible?
- If the lift truck starts to tip, what should you do? Why?

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

The material in this document is provided for informational purposes only and not as a comprehensive or exhaustive resource on this topic. This material has been compiled from a multitude of sources believed to be accurate; however, Caterpillar Inc. assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or currency of this information and encourages you to consult experts in this area for more information. In no event does the content of this document supersede any applicable local, state, or federal statutes or regulations.

Control ID: V0111.1

SAFETY.CAT.COM™
<http://safety.cat.com/toolbox>

CAT, CATERPILLAR, their respective logos, "Caterpillar Yellow" and the POWER EDGE trade dress, as well as corporate and product identity used herein, are trademarks of Caterpillar and may not be used without permission. © 2009 Caterpillar All Rights Reserved

