



# Forklift Safety



*OSHA estimates that 680,400 incidents involving forklifts occur in the United States each year.*

## Ricky's Story

Ricky was using a forklift to move a load of drywall panels. Bill, another worker, noticed materials on the ground that he thought were blocking the forklift's path. He stepped out in front of the forklift, forcing Ricky to stop suddenly. When the forklift stopped, the drywall panels fell off and struck Bill, breaking his leg.

- ✘ **What caused this incident?**
- ✘ **How could this have been prevented?**
- ✘ **Have you known or heard of anyone who was injured or killed when hit by a forklift? If so, what happened?**

## Remember This

- Inspect the forklift every day before use.
- DO NOT operate a forklift unless you have been trained and certified.
- Use seat belts if they are available.
- If damage or problems occur with the forklift during your shift, tell your supervisor.
- Exit from a rear-entry, stand-up forklift by stepping backward, in case of a lateral tip-over.
- Use extreme caution on grades and ramps.
- On grades, tilt the load back and raise it only as far as needed to clear the road surface.
- **Do not** raise or lower the forks while the forklift is moving.
- **Do not** drive up to anyone standing in front of a bench or other fixed object.
- Travel backward with the load if you cannot see in front of you. Also, look toward the travel path and keep a clear view of it.
- Sound the horn as you approach and while turning corners where you cannot see.
- Band or secure loads on forklifts if they could fall.

## How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent forklift injuries or deaths?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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OSHA Regulation: 1910.178 (applies to construction)

**Use extreme caution on ramps.**



- ✘ **Do not** operate a forklift unless you have been trained and certified.
- ✘ Use extreme caution on grades and ramps.
- ✘ **Do not** raise or lower the forks while the forklift is moving.