## Working Safely Around Forklifts Stats and Facts



## **FACTS**

- 1. Forklifts are impressive work equipment, weighing three times more than the average car.
- 2. Forklift accidents are the most common type of heavy equipment accidents in American workplaces.
- 3. Forklifts are steered by their back wheels. When the forklift turns on its rear wheels, its rear engine compartment moves with it.
- 4. Tipping occurs when forklift is overloaded, when driven up or down a steep incline, or operated recklessly.
- 5. Most forklifts are equipped with overhead guards, or "masts," to protect the driver from falling objects. If a forklift begins to tip over and the driver tries to jump off, the masts can trap and crush the driver between the forklift and the floor.
- Improperly maintained forklifts can break down in the middle of operation.
  Sudden, unanticipated stops can cause inventory to dislodge and fall on coworkers or bystanders.

## **STATS**

- More than 1,000,000 forklifts are in operation throughout the United States
- Forklift accidents cost businesses \$135,000,000 every year.
- Roughly 70% of all accidents could have been avoided with proper training.
- OSHA estimates there are 110,000 forklift accidents every year.
- Roughly 20,000 workers are injured every year in forklift-related accidents.
- Forklift-related citations are routinely among OSHA's top 10 violations each year:
- Overturned forklifts are the leading cause of deaths involving forklifts; account for 22% of all forklift-related fatalities.
- Workers on foot struck by forklifts account for 20% of all forklift-related fatalities.
- Victims crushed by forklifts account for 16% of all fatalities and falls from forklifts account for 9% of all forklift fatalities.
- Forklifts account for around 85 deaths every year.
- Forklifts accidents that result in serious injury total 34.900 annually.
- Non-serious injuries related to forklifts accidents reach 61.800 each year.
- A forklift overturning is the most common incident, accounting for 24%vof all

forklift accidents.

- If companies implemented more stringent training policies, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that about 70% of forklift accidents in the US could be prevented.
- Forklifts account for only 1% of all warehouse or factory accidents. But the accidents tend to be more serious than others, accounting for 10% of al physical injuries in those workplaces.