Prevent Forklift Accidents

If you work with, on, or around forklifts, remember:

• Only trained, authorized employees may operate forklifts.
• Forklifts must be carefully inspected—the tires, brakes, steering, horn, forks, etc.—before use each day or shift.
• A forklift that’s damaged or not operating properly must not be used.

If you operate a forklift:

• Check your route in advance, so you’re aware of overhead clearances and poor or obstructed road surfaces.
• Never indulge in stunt driving or horseplay.
• Keep your arms, hands, and legs inside the truck.
• Wear safety belt, hard hat, sturdy shoes with nonskid soles, and any other PPE required by your employer.
• Obey speed limits and stay in your lane.
• Stay at least three truck lengths behind the vehicle in front.
• Slow down for turns; sound the horn at intersections; and come to a stop before going into reverse.
• Yield to pedestrians and emergency vehicles.
• Stay a safe distance from ramp or platform edges.
• Refuel or recharge only in assigned areas and follow proper precautions.

If you work around forklifts:

• Be alert to oncoming vehicles and horn signals.
• Don’t try to hitch a ride on a forklift.
• Don’t stand or walk under elevated forks, even if they’re empty.