

## **Safety Rules for People Working Around Industrial Lift Trucks**

Call them what you like – forklifts, lift trucks, bulls. They can be a large part of any industrial operation. Most forklift safety training concentrates on the operators, with good cause. They are the ones who are maneuvering the heavy, and sometimes awkward, loads through aisles, around and up ramps.

A well-known lift truck manufacturer recently stated that co-workers, not operators, sustain 60% of injuries/fatalities involving lift trucks.

The following seven tips are meant to raise the awareness of pedestrians:

1. Establish eye contact with the forklift driver.
2. Keep a safe distance from the lift truck and pay attention.
3. NEVER assume the lift truck operator knows that you are there. Make yourself known.
4. Watch out for the tail swing when a lift truck turns.
5. Stay clear of the fall zone. This is a full circle around the lift truck equal to twice the height of the carried load.
6. Check the mirrors that are installed at corners for better viewing. Do you need to have some installed?
7. Never walk under the raised forks of a lift truck. Even when empty, the forks could fall without warning.

Remember, it is easy to become immune to the dangers of working around a lift truck. With all of the noises that can occur during a work shift, back up and warning sounds can blend in with everything else. The key is to be aware of your surroundings.