



Tailgate Safety Talk

Purpose: To ensure employees understand management's expectations for accident prevention and control.

Scope: Outline precautionary steps to take in order to prevent an incident/accident from occurring

Date: _____

Facility: _____

Title: Forklift Seatbelt Safety

Precautionary Steps to be Taken:

- Wear proper PPE in work area: Steel Toe boots, Hard Hat, Hearing Protection, Safety Glasses, Gloves, and recommend long sleeves.
- Wear **SEAT BELT AT ALL TIMES WHEN OPERATING EQUIPMENT**. This includes: FORK TRUCKS, Loaders, backhoes, Petibones, etc. (Mobile Equipment (5)(a)(1))
 - If there is an accident, stay in your forklift! Do not leave the cab!
- **SLOW** down & sound horn at Intersections, cross walks, doorways, or obstructed view locations (1910.178) Recent Accidents in Area:
 - An employee was using a forklift to move waste material into a large, drive-in waste Dumpster on the company's outdoor loading dock. He just dumped a load and was backing out when he backed off the side of the loading dock, falling just under 4 feet to the pavement below. Since he wasn't wearing a seat belt, he was thrown from the forklift and was crushed under the truck's rollover cage. He died 9 days later.
 - An employee was driving an unloaded forklift down a ramp with a 13 percent slope when the forklift started to tip over. The operator attempted to jump clear, and the rollover protective structure (ROP) landed on him and killed him. The employee was not wearing the supplied seat belt.
 - A forklift operator drove his truck down a ramp rapidly and appeared to be attempting to make a sharp left turn. The forklift overturned. Apparently, the employee was unaccustomed to the quickness and sharp turning radius of the new forklift. He was also not wearing the provided seat belt, and when he fell from the seat, his head was caught under the overhead protective cage.
- What OSHA says about forklifts and seat belts: "OSHA's enforcement policy on the use of seat belts on powered industrial trucks is that employers are obligated to require operators of powered industrial trucks that are equipped with operator restraint devices, including seat belts, to use the devices. Compliance Officers will enforce the use of such devices under Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act.
 - Why It Matters...
 - As with any other kind of vehicle accident, wearing a seat belt while operating a forklift can minimize injuries and save lives.
 - The safest place for a forklift operator to be in the event of a rollover is strapped into his or her seat, protected by the ROP.
 - In case after case, investigators of forklift fatalities almost always list, "Ensure that all workers wear seat belts on forklifts" as one of the recommendations for preventing future accidents.

