

ej4



Forklift Best Practices

Physical Conditions

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Course description

Your number one priority on the job, whether you're an employee or a manager, should be safety. In this course, we're going to talk about the various physical condition risks you may face while driving a forklift, and how to handle them. Physical conditions refer to the surface or ground conditions in your workplace. Potential hazards are typically divided into the following areas: slippery conditions, obstructions and uneven surfaces, and floor loading limits. We're going to go over the recommended ways to stay safe when you run into these hazards at work.

Slippery conditions

- These include spills like:
 - Oil
 - Grease
 - Water
- You might also be required to operate a forklift on:
 - Ice
 - Snow
 - Mud
 - Gravel
 - Uneven areas

Recommendations for slippery conditions:

- Avoid hazardous areas when possible.
- If possible, clean up oil and grease spills before proceeding. Driving over an oil or grease spot will only enlarge the spill.
- If the area can't be avoided or cleaned, spread absorbent material on it.
- Cross any slippery areas slowly and cautiously.
- Report the area, both verbally and by posting a sign or warning cones, to help your coworkers avoid slipping.
- Focus on maintaining contact with the ground by crossing uneven areas at an angle.

Physical Conditions

Forklift Best Practices

Obstructions and uneven surfaces

- Be aware of potential obstructions including overhead obstructions or items that might be in your path.
- Overhead obstructions:
 - Be aware of the height of fixtures and avoid traveling with elevated loads.
 - Possible damage includes:
 - Lights
 - Stacks
 - Doors
 - Sprinklers
 - Pipes
 - Your load
 - Load tipovers
- Speed bumps or railroad tracks:
 - Cross slowly and at a 45° angle.
 - Crossing these barriers straight can increase risk of tipover.

Floor loading limits

- Observe all floor loading limit signs.
- The risk is collapsing the floor.
- Inspect the condition of the floor for:
 - Holes
 - Weakened or damaged flooring
 - Protruding nails or boards
 - Loose objects
 - Obstructions
- If the floor appears to be defective, do not drive on it and inform your supervisor immediately.

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Forklift Best Practices

Elevator weight limits

- Potential hazards include:
 - Overloading
 - Damage to the floor
 - Insufficient clearance or space
- Ensure the elevator is rated to a capacity that will lift:
 - The forklift
 - The load
 - The operator
- Once the forklift is on the elevator:
 - Put the controls in neutral.
 - Shut off the power.
 - Set the brakes.
 - Ensure there's enough space and overhead clearance.

Application Questions

1

List the physical conditions in your workplace.

2

What are the possible hazards that you face when it comes to the physical conditions of your workplace?