

Each year approximately 97,000 injuries, some of which resulted in fatalities, are a result of forklift accidents. It is estimated that 1 in every 10 forklifts will be involved in an accident every year.

### FORKLIFTS

Forklifts or powered industrial trucks (PITs) are used to lift and carry loads short distances or to load and unload trucks. Forklifts can be gas powered or electric, and can range in size.

Only **authorized employees** should operate forklifts. Employers should have employees trained and certified on each piece of equipment that they will be operating. Employees should be recertified every 3 years or sooner if deficiencies are found.

### INSPECTIONS

Forklifts should be inspected at the start of each day, or before each shift if there it is a 24 hour operation. All inspections should be documented and turned into management. Look for:

- Leaks
- Cracks or damage to mast, forks, and any hydraulic equipment
- All controls are working properly
- Brakes, forward, reverse, and emergency brakes are working
- Lights, horns, and back up alarm are working
- Tires and any general damage to the forklift.



**If a deficiency is found, mark it on the inspection and then Tag Out the forklift**

### SAFE OPERATION

30% of forklift accidents are determined to be caused by inadequate safety training!

Here are some safe operation techniques!

- Always wear your seatbelt
- Never attempt to leave the cab, always remain inside
- Travel at appropriate speeds
- Stay within the load capacity of the forklift
- Yield to pedestrians. Pedestrians always have the right of way
- Sound horn while approaching corners and backing up
- Avoid turning with an elevated load
- Travel with load low to the ground and slightly tilted back
- Travel slow and avoid turning on ramps
- Never place anybody in a "pinch point"

