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Weekly Safety Tip

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June 12, 2017

SCI Safety Tip: What Can Small Businesses Do About Forklifts? Maintenance and Operation Compliance Tips for Employers (Part 1)

By: Clare Condon

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: June 8, 2017



Every October, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) releases a preliminary list of the 10 most frequently cited safety and health violations for the fiscal year. Violations of the standard for powered industrial trucks (i.e., forklifts) are consistently on the list. Today we offer some tips for small businesses on a limited budget to comply with forklift requirements.

Each year, several thousand injuries related to forklifts occur in U.S. workplaces. Many employees are injured when lift trucks are inadvertently driven off loading docks or fall between the dock and an unsecured trailer, pedestrians are struck by a lift truck, or when workers fall while standing on forks while traveling or elevated.

OSHA has extensive regulations for forklift design and maintenance, operations, and training that all employers that use these vehicles must comply with. There are also additional requirements that depend on the classification of a forklift and its use.

This article will focus on general compliance tips for forklift design, maintenance, and operations. Tomorrow we will look at training requirements and some best practices for forklift operators.

SCI Safety Slogan



James Lehrke-SCI

According to OSHA, tipovers are the leading cause of fatalities involving forklifts, representing about 25% of all forklift-related deaths. Common forklift problems that lead to worker injuries include three that are directly related to employer compliance and two that are related to driver responsibilities. Employer compliance issues include:

- Failure to provide or inadequate operator training;
- Failure to provide or ensure use of seat belts; *and*
- Defective equipment that is not taken out of service.

Common problems that relate to worker responsibilities include:

- Failure to conduct regular inspections before operation; *and*
- Driving in an unsafe manner.



Compliance Tips for Forklift Design and Maintenance

All new forklifts must meet the design and construction requirements established in the American National Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks, Part II, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) B56.1-1969, which OSHA has incorporated by reference in 29 CFR 1910.6. There is an exception for vehicles intended primarily for earthmoving or over-the-road hauling.

General compliance tips for equipment design and maintenance include:

- Do not make modifications or add attachments to forklifts without the prior approval of the manufacturer.
- Make sure that nameplates and markings are maintained in legible condition.
- Provide directional lighting on each industrial truck that operates in an area with less than 2 foot-candles (lumens) per square foot of general lighting.
- Make sure each forklift has a warning horn, whistle, gong, or other device that can be clearly heard above normal noise in the areas where it is operated.
- Make sure the brakes on each forklift are capable of bringing the vehicle to a complete and safe stop when fully loaded.
- Make sure the parking brake of the forklift prevents the vehicle from moving when unattended.
- Make sure that motorized hand and hand/rider trucks are designed so that the brakes are applied and power to the drive motor shuts off when the operator releases his or her grip on the device that controls the truck's travel.
- Don't allow anyone to operate a vehicle that requires maintenance or is in any way unsafe.
- Remove from service any forklift not in safe operating condition.
- Make sure all repairs are made by authorized personnel. Do not permit workers to attempt to fix it themselves unless they are trained and authorized to do so.
- Perform preventive maintenance according to manufacturer's scheduled recommendations.
- Keep forklifts in clean condition, free of lint, excess oil, and grease.

Continued next week

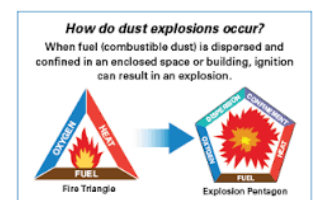
SCI OSHA News: Wisconsin safety group says mill deaths show need for better enforcement

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: June 8, 2017

Local and national safety advocacy groups say a tragic explosion at a corn mill in Cambria, Wisconsin, points to the need for beefed-up enforcement of safety laws and regulations.

Three employees of a corn milling company were killed as the result of a June 1 explosion that also injured several workers and leveled the facility. In 2011, the business was cited by OSHA for failing to equip its facility with equipment to protect against ignition and explosion of dust from grain accumulating inside the mill. OSHA ordered the mill to correct the problems; that case was reportedly closed in 2013.





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Quick Tips for Healthy Living

Dehydration Symptoms

Mild to moderate dehydration is likely to cause:

- Dry, sticky mouth
- Sleepiness or tiredness — children are likely to be less active than usual
- Thirst
- Decreased urine output
- No wet diapers for three hours for infants
- Few or no tears when crying
- Dry skin
- Headache
- Constipation
- Dizziness or lightheadedness

Severe dehydration, a medical emergency, can cause:

- Extreme thirst
- Extreme fussiness or sleepiness in infants and children; irritability and confusion in adults
- Very dry mouth, skin and mucous membranes
- Little or no urination — any urine that is produced will be darker than normal
- Sunken eyes
- Shriveled and dry skin that lacks elasticity and doesn't "bounce back" when pinched into a fold
- In infants, sunken fontanels — the soft spots on the top of a baby's head
- Low blood pressure
- Rapid heartbeat
- Rapid breathing
- No tears when crying
- Fever

In the most serious cases, delirium or unconsciousness. Unfortunately, thirst isn't always a reliable gauge of the body's need for water, especially in children and older adults. A better indicator is the color of your urine: Clear or light-colored urine means you're well hydrated, whereas a dark yellow or amber color usually signals dehydration.

When to see a doctor

If you're a healthy adult, you can usually treat mild to moderate dehydration by drinking more fluids, such as water or a sports drink (Gatorade, Powerade, others). Get immediate medical care if you develop severe signs and symptoms such as extreme thirst, a lack of urination, shriveled skin, dizziness and confusion.

You can help prevent dehydration from becoming severe by carefully monitoring someone who is sick and giving fluids, such as an oral rehydration solution (CeraLyte, Pedialyte, others), at the first sign of diarrhea, vomiting or fever and by encouraging children to drink plenty of water before, during and after exercise.

Jim Schultz, executive director of the Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (WisCOSH) commented, "Our prayers are with the victims and families of this terrible event." He said the three workers "lost their lives working in a grain mill, where explosions caused by dust are known as a preventable hazard."

He added, "Employers are always talking about the cost of fines, and how it hurts their business. We also need to focus on the terrible cost to workers and the price paid by families when workers are put at risk in an unsafe environment." The U.S. Chemical Safety Board, which has been targeted for closure in the proposed federal budget, has recommended a general industry combustible dust standard to prevent such tragic events.

Sixteen people were working at the facility at the time of the explosion. The family-owned business employs more than 200 people who are involved in storing, milling, and transporting corn products. Investigations into the incident are under way.
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/combustibledustposter.pdf>

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