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## *Weekly Safety Tip*

*Life Is All About Choices!*<sup>®</sup>

June 19, 2017

### **SCI Safety Tip: What Can Small Businesses Do About Forklifts? Maintenance and Operation Compliance Tips for Employers (Part 2)**

*By: Clare Condon*

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

*Date: June 8, 2017*



#### **Compliance Tips for Forklift Operations**

General compliance tips for forklift operations include:

- Post and enforce the required lift truck operating rules.
- Ensure that forklifts that operate where flammable gases, vapors, combustible dust, or ignitable fibers may be present are approved for such locations.
- Ensure that forklifts with internal combustion engines that are operated in buildings or enclosed areas are carefully checked so that they do not cause harmful concentrations of dangerous gases or fumes.
- Maintain safe distances from the edges of elevated ramps and platforms.
- Prohibit workers from standing or passing under elevated portions of trucks, whether loaded or empty.
- Prohibit unauthorized employees from riding on forklifts.
- Prohibit operators from driving up to anyone standing in front of a fixed object.
- Make sure operators keep arms and legs inside the running lines of the forklift.

#### ***SCI Safety Slogan***



***James Lehrke-SCI***

- Make sure loads are handled only within the rated capacity of the truck.
- Ensure that forklifts are inspected at least daily before being placed in service. Forklifts used on a round-the-clock basis must be examined after each shift.
- The operator should conduct a prestart visual check with the key off and then perform an operational check with the engine running.
- Remove forklifts in need of repair from service immediately.
- If the forklift has seat belts or other restraining devices (a requirement for forklifts manufactured after 1992), make sure that the operators are using them.



### Takeaway for EHS Managers

Violations of forklift standards are consistently on the top 10 list of frequently cited safety and health violations. Determining the best way to protect workers from injury largely depends on the type of truck operated and the worksite where it is being used. You must ensure that each forklift operator is competent to operate a forklift safely, as demonstrated by the successful completion of the training and evaluation. Small businesses that use forklifts should consider these general design and maintenance and operation compliance points for operating forklifts.

## SCI OSHA News: Critical incident: San Francisco UPS facility becomes latest workplace shooting scene

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

Date: June 16, 2017

The nation was still reeling from news of a shooting at a Congressional baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia early Wednesday morning when reports of yet another shooting began to trickle in. Just a few hours after the Virginia shooting, on the other side of the country, a man walked in to a UPS sorting facility just south of downtown San Francisco, California. The shooter killed three people and wounded two others before turning his gun on himself.



Although shootings with high-profile victims (like Congressional representatives) or multiple casualties make headlines, gun-related workplace violence frequently strikes on a much smaller scale, involving a single shooter and a single employee (for example, in a robbery). Regardless of the cause or the number of people involved, these incidents generally fall into the category of “critical incidents,” and you can train workers to respond to them in ways that minimize the harm they suffer as a result.

### Planning for critical incidents

According to federal OSHA, a “critical incident” is an event that includes “having to witness or experience tragedy, death, serious injuries and threatening situations.” The definition includes not only violent situations, but also disasters such as chemical leaks, fires and explosions, and some types of natural disasters.

Critical incident planning, then, has some features in common with emergency action or disaster planning. In order minimize the damage caused by critical incidents, employers should:

- *Map the workplace.* A detailed map can be used to analyze vulnerabilities – for example, does the building have any unsecured entrances? Could unauthorized persons easily gain access to restricted areas? It can also be used to develop an appropriate response – for example, by determining whether communications and emergency notification systems are adequate, and by identifying safe areas, emergency exit routes, and assembly points.



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Quick Tips for Healthy Living

June is Men’s Health Month

According to the Men’s Health Network, women were only outliving men by one year in 1920. By 2014, men were dying almost five years sooner than women. The fact that American men live sicker and die younger than American women is known as the Silent Health Crisis.

Why Men are at High Risk

- A higher percentage of men have no healthcare coverage.
- Men make ½ as many physician visits for prevention.
- Men are employed in the most dangerous occupations.
- Society discourages healthy behaviors in men and boys.
- Research on male-specific diseases is underfunded.
- Men may have less healthy lifestyles including risk-taking at younger ages.

What Can Men Do?

- Visit the doctor. Even if you feel healthy, an annual physical is recommended to catch illnesses early. Preventative visits are often covered 100% by health insurance, so don’t let it go to waste!
- Play and work safely. Taking unnecessary risk is one of the reasons men have a shorter lifespan than women. Don’t think it can’t happen to you!
- Encourage your family and friends to live safe and healthy lives. Teach young males the importance of health and safety and don’t encourage dangerous or unhealthy behavior.

- *Equip the workplace.* Once you know where your vulnerabilities and gaps are, you can address them by improving security and communications as needed – for example, by securing building entrances, creating safe shelter-in-place locations for anticipated incidents (anything from tornadoes to active shooters), clearly marking exit routes, and adding emergency equipment, from fire extinguishers to AEDs, in key locations.
- *Train your personnel.* Workers need to know what kinds of emergencies they may face, and how to activate emergency response systems for different types of emergencies. They need to know where the safe areas and assembly points are, and what their closest exit route is. Depending on their job tasks, they may need to know how to identify and deescalate tense interpersonal situations, or how to safely escort non-employees or physically disabled coworkers out of the workplace.
- *Coordinate with local emergency responders.* In a medical emergency, ambulance response time is critical; in an active-shooter situation, law enforcement response time is equally critical. Involve these agencies in your planning – invite them to your facility to familiarize themselves with entrance locations, buildings and interior layouts, and other information that may help them to respond more efficiently to an emergency at your site.
- *Drill.* Have workers practice implementing the skills they will need to stay safe in a critical incident. Knowing what to do in advance, rather than having to decide in the moment, will help them to respond in situations where they might otherwise freeze in indecision.

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