

## Pedestrians and Forklifts

In many workplaces, forklifts are the primary tool used for moving and handling materials. As useful as forklifts are, they can be deadly if not operated safely and if pedestrians are not aware of the hazard of working near forklifts.

### Forklift Hazards:

While pedestrians have the right of way, it is important for pedestrians to understand the distractions that stand between them and a forklift driver.

**Forklift's Mast:** The mast on a forklift blocks quite a bit of the driver's forward visibility, even when the forklift is not carrying a load.

**Overhead Cage:** While the overhead cage itself does not cause a visual distraction, the vertical support does. Much like driving a car, it prevents clear visual field.

**Large Loads:** Forward is typically completely blocked when carrying large loads. This will result in the forklift driver to travel in reverse.

**Going in Reverse:** While traveling backwards, drivers have to turn their heads and their body to look behind them. This twisting and turning also reduces their vision.

**Mirrors:** Just like our cars, forklift mirrors have blind spots as well.

### Pedestrians' Responsibility:

Trained and authorized forklift drivers have responsibilities they are required to abide by. Pedestrians also need to be on the lookout for hazardous situations. Following these safety procedures can help keep you and forklift operators safe.

- Check overhead mirrors and look both ways before stepping into an intersection
- Never cross in front or behind a manned vehicle, whether it is moving or stopped, without making eye contact and getting permission from the driver
- Be aware of the rear end swing, and never walk too close to a lift truck
- Never cross under the raised forks or clamp of a forklift, whether it is loaded or not
- Pedestrians should walk single file when in an aisle that a forklift is present
- Be aware of forklift drivers that may be distracted, it only takes a moment of distraction for an accident to happen
- Be aware of forklift drivers as they sound their horn
- Forklift forks are a major cause of pedestrian accidents. It is important to be aware of forklift forks at all times
- Avoid being distracted when walking around forklift traffic
- Forklifts are known to drip oil, water, or other engine fluids. Watch out for these potential slip hazards