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SAFETY ALERT FORK LIFT TRUCK

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WHS Issue

There have been 2 work related fatalities in the last two months that can be contributed to Fork Lift Trucks operating in the workplace.

Statistics from a Study performed by Monash University indicate that an estimate of 90% of working forklift trucks will be involved in a workplace OHS incident during its average 8 year lifespan.

This same study also indicates that human error is in the majority of cases responsible for these Workplace OHS incidents.

These incidents can be avoided by following some simple procedures when operating forklift trucks.

How to avoid a WHS incident in the Workplace

Licence – Always ensure that the person operating the forklift is either correctly licensed or under the instruction of a licensed Forklift operator using the Log Book Licensing System

Speed - Ensure speed limit signs are used and adhered to in your workplace. Speed is a major contributor to workplace accidents involving Forklift Trucks. The table below shows the effects of speed in an emergency breaking situation.

Speed Km's/hour	6	12	14	16	18	20	22
Speed Meters/Second	1.7	3.3	3.9	4.4	5	5.6	6.1
Distance traveled after driver applies breaks in an emergency	2.5	5	5.8	6.7	7.5	8.3	9.2
Total emergency stopping distances (meters)	2.9-3.2	7-8	8-10	9.5-12	11-14	13-16	14-19

Pre Operational Checklist: Always ensure the drivers of the forklift trucks are performing a preoperational checklist: Below is a list of some things that should be included in the check list. (Please note that the pre operational checklist should be designed by the employer with specifics from the type of vehicle used in the workplace)



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Prior to starting the ignition

- Check for wear and damage on the tyres, pressure if applicable
- Check all fluid levels, oil, hydraulic, battery and coolant
- Check the seating and adjustment
- Check warning devices, horn, flashing lights, reversing sound,
- Check the Capacity of the fork truck is clearly marked
- Check the lifting mast for wear and tear
- Check the Tines are in place, lockable and in good working order
- Check the seat belt is in good working order
- Check that all guards are in place
- Check the LPG Cylinder is in date and in good working order with no leaks
- Check that the forklift is registered if it needs to be driven on a road

After starting the ignition

- Check all controls are operational
- Check brakes are operating correctly including park break.

Ensure the workplace is properly designed for the use of forklift trucks: If a forklift is used in your workplace always ensure the following when designing your workspace:

- Are “no go” zones clearly marked or fenced off
- Is there a clear defined path for pedestrians and forklift truck drivers
- Where the paths of pedestrians and forklift truck drivers intersect, are there pedestrian crossings marked and used.
- Is there sufficient lighting to enable the best possible vision for the forklift truck driver
- Are road surfaces smooth and even throughout
- If there are blind spots for the forklift truck drivers are they marked and are there precautions in place to allow best possible vision for the pedestrian and the drivers. Eg Mirror, flashing lights, stop signs, crossings etc.

Ensure proper induction and ongoing training of forklift truck drivers:

- All of the above points should be used as a induction program for all new staff.
- Ongoing training to staff should be undertaken at regular intervals and after reported incidents or changes to the workplace.

ALWAYS ENSURE THAT YOU ARE WEARING A SEATBELT IF IT IS FITTED

The above information is not exhaustive and only to be used as a guide and a refresher to all of those involved in workplaces with forklift trucks operating. All workplaces should complete a full risk assessment prior to the implementation of forklift trucks operating. Please contact 1300apprentice OHS Manager if you want further information for this.

Remember to **STOP THINK ACT REVIEW** prior to the commencement of any Activity

For further information refer to:

- <http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/forkliftsafetyreducingtherisks.aspx>
- http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/WC00007_ForkLiftTruckDriversGuide.aspx

For further information contact: Darren Gibson – OHS Manager 1300apprentice