

Forklifts vs. Foot Traffic

As an operator of a powered industrial truck, you must watch out for other employees at all times. This rule is no different than what is required of you as a safe driver when you are operating your own car. Pedestrians, whether they are walking across the yard or walking down a city street, are no match against moving steel.

Here are some safe driving tips to think about:

The key to keeping co-workers and customers safe is speed. Travel at a safe speed, suitable to the surroundings and the type of load you are carrying. Take your time and drive safely. If the conditions you are driving in are wet or slippery, drive at a slower speed, the same as on a highway in your own car. Conditions determine the speed you should go.

Let others know you are coming. Slow down and sound your horn at blind corners and other locations where your vision is obstructed by fixed objects. In level areas, travel with load elevated only enough to clear obstacles on the floor or roadway.

Look behind you before backing up. Something or someone may be there now that wasn't there a few seconds ago.

Don't allow anyone to stand or pass under the elevated portion of your truck, whether it is loaded or empty. If they don't listen, tell your supervisor.

And of course, stunt driving and horseplay are never permitted. This is a place to work—not a playground.

Protect your fellow employees by following these rules. The responsibility for safety belongs to everyone. By being a safe fork lift driver, you are doing your part to make this a safe place to work.

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For comments or suggestions about *For Your Safety*, e-mail barneyboynton@isri.org

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