

FORKLIFT

ACCIDENTS &

PREVENTION



Warehouse accidents often involve forklifts. Accidents can be caused by employees who do not use forklifts properly, by forklifts that are defective or by challenges involving adequate maintenance. How do we prevent an accident or claim from occurring?

According to OSHA, there are between OSHA estimates forklifts cause about 85 fatal accidents per year; 34,900 accidents resulting serious injury; and 61,800 are being non-serious. By being aware of the dangers, looking for potential pitfalls and ensuring proper training, you can take steps to avoid adding to these numbers. OSHA is very clear, "Operating a forklift without training is dangerous and can even be fatal to you or other employees working in the area."

Most of the injuries and property damage can be linked to these causes:

- *Lack of training or improper training of workers who have to operate forklift trucks.*
- *Lack of enforcement of safety rules; for example, a forklift should never be used to elevate workers standing on the forks.*
- *Failure to follow safe forklift operating procedures including speed.*
- *Improper assignment of forklifts and operators.*
- *Poor maintenance of forklifts.*

Workplace design can contribute to forklift accidents. Most of the injuries and property damage can be linked to these causes:

- *Narrow aisles*
- *Crowded, cluttered aisles*
- *Obstructions at intersections and doors.*

Characteristics of the load creating hazards:

- *Poorly stacked items piled on the pallet*
- *Broken or faulty pallets*
- *Load too heavy*
- *Load instability*
- *Load blocking the operator's vision*

Mover's Choice wants to help you keep your lift operators and contents safe. Training, experience and knowledge are necessary in creating safe work environments.

We have loss control resources on this topic available throughout our website www.moverschoiceinfo.com and on our MC Dispatch page www.themcdispatch.com.