

SAFETY MOMENT

February 2025 – Forklift Safety



Forklift Use:

Forklifts provide an irreplaceable amount of value in many workplaces and have played a major contributing role in the growth of many industries globally. The value that forklifts add to many workplaces does come at a cost, being increased risks to the health and safety of workers. Like any machinery or plant in the workplace, if not properly maintained, operated, and respected, there is an increased chance of injuries to both the operator and other employees.

Hazards that can arise from the use of forklifts:

- Tipping the forklift
- Objects falling on the operator of the forklift
- Operator being ejected from the forklift
- Collision between the forklift and people or objects
- Mechanical failure of pressurised elements on a forklift that may release harmful fluids

Controlling Forklift Related Hazards:

The three most important factors in controlling forklift related hazards are the proper inspection, maintenance and operation of the forklift.

- **Pre-use Inspection:** Under the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022, it is required that all plant is inspected in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, which in the case of forklifts is each time you use a different forklift and at the beginning of each shift.
- **Maintenance:** thorough servicing and maintenance should be completed at set periods for each forklift by either the owner, operator, or leaser of the forklift.
- **Operation:** According to the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022, any person operating a forklift must hold the appropriate High Risk Work licence. Seatbelts should be used at all times while operating a forklift.

What can cause a forklift to tip?

- Excessive speed
- Overloading
- Heavy braking
- Slippery surfaces
- Tight turns
- Moving with an elevated mast or load