

10 Dos and Don'ts for Work Platforms on Forklifts



A forklift work platform is a unit or cage that is supported on a lift truck. The use of a platform allows employees to work at heights or in difficult-to-reach places. If not operated properly, they can cause serious injury and even death. To reduce the risk, workers should follow these safety tips and warnings

Do

Complete a thorough inspection

Inspect the forklift used to lift the cage and make sure that it is on a flat, firm surface. The lifting mechanism should operate smoothly and employees should be protected from the mast and any moving parts.

Follow the manual

Only use a forklift platform that is approved and read the operator's manual prior to using the lift. Be sure to follow all of the manufacturer's recommendations.

Make sure the platform is securely attached to the forks

This will prevent the employee from sliding off.

Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Proper PPE includes highly visible apparel, hard hats, hand protection, and sturdy footwear. A full body harness should also be worn with a lanyard that is attached to a designated anchor point that has been recommended by the manufacturer.

Provide education and training

Training should be given to employees that are working in and around the platform.

Don't

Don't tilt the mast

This will prevent the platform from sliding and tipping over.

Don't sit, climb or stand on the guardrail

The guardrail is designed to keep employees inside the platform and prevent falls from heights.

Don't travel with personnel on the platform

Unplanned movement of the truck can make the platform unstable and if the forklift tips over and ejects an employee, the employee can be injured.

Don't lift employees on forks

Lifting employees on forklifts is dangerous and can result in serious injury or death.

Don't leave a forklift unattended

Communication must be maintained between the operator and the employee in the lift.

For more workplace safety information and safety meeting topics, visit www.SafeAtWorkCA.com.

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