



# Safe Work Practices for Pedestrians Around Forklifts

Working near forklifts creates a unique set of hazards. Fortunately, there are a variety of work practices to ensure safety when crossing paths with powered industrial trucks. Use your senses and common sense!

## Where's the Forklift?

Learn the warning signs that indicate a forklift is nearby.

- Listen for forklift horns. Forklift operators should sound the horn when approaching intersections, corners, blind spots, other forklifts and areas with pedestrians.
- Listen for backup alarms. Forklifts have a backup alarm that sounds whenever the forklift is moving in reverse.
- Listen for the forklift engine. The engines of combustion forklifts will be louder when the forklift is traveling or when the forklift is raising a load. Electric forklifts, however, are usually very quiet, and listening for engine noise will not help.
- Look for flashing lights. Forklifts are required to have continuous flashing, rotating lights.

## Walking Safely Near Forklifts

- Avoid distractions when walking through sites of forklift traffic, such as reading paperwork, using a phone or talking with other pedestrians.
- Stop and look both ways before entering a forklift lane, crossing an aisle, walking up to a blind corner or walking across an intersection where forklifts travel.
- Walk single file along the side of an aisle with forklift traffic or keep to designated walking aisles.

## Approaching a Forklift Driver

If workers need to approach a forklift driver, they should:

- Keep away from the forklift until the driver sees them.
- Wait for the driver to stop the forklift.
- Approach the forklift **ONLY** after the driver motions them over.
- When approaching a forklift, workers should be careful to:
  - Keep their feet away from the forklift.
  - Walk away before the driver moves the forklift, rather than waiting for the driver to pull away.

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