



Weekly Safety Tip

Powered Industrial Trucks / Forklifts



Powered Industrial Trucks / Forklifts



Operator error is a leading root cause for PIT incidents due to insufficient hazard assessments and human performance errors.

Contributing factors involve **failing to properly train operators** as well as **improperly authorized employee operation**. So, here are some tips that will keep your PIT operators and pedestrians safe.

20 tips to limit or eliminate unwanted PIT-related occurrences

1. Train, evaluate, and also provide refresher training and necessary remedial training, all of which are required by OSHA.
2. To help avoid pedestrian and other collisions, consider adding proximity detection in new PITs or retrofitting existing PITs.
3. If the operator is 25 feet or more from the forklift or cannot see it, the equipment is considered unattended and must be shut down.
4. If the operator's view is obstructed, they should travel in reverse or ask a spotter to assist them.
5. An operator must be aware of the equipment's blind spots.
6. Before lifting the load, place the forklift in neutral and set the parking brake.
7. Prior to operation, analyze and control the hazards of the operating location.
8. Prior to operation, be aware of any high-voltage electric clearances. Take an outage (i.e., get power de-energized), if probable or possible contact is clearly a concern.
9. Always wear a seat belt on the PIT when provided.
10. Always inspect the PIT before use. If any safety or operational features are defective, they must be repaired before use.
11. Stay a safe distance from platform and ramp edges.
12. Be aware of and watch for other forklifts and pedestrians in the work area.
13. Ensure clear visibility of the work area when loading, unloading & operating a forklift.
14. Use 3-points-of-contact to safely enter and exit the PIT.
15. Know the clearances above, behind, in front of and on both sides of the PIT.
16. Be extremely mindful of operational speed and follow posted speed limits.
17. Use the PIT's warning & visibility lights, mirrors & horns to warn others as necessary.
18. Never exceed the load rating, and make sure the load is balanced before moving.
19. Never use the forks to lift people.
20. Never allow anyone under a suspended load.

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Weekly Safety Share

Safer People



Safety Share: Safer People

by DA Varwig, CSP-retired

Through the National Roadway Safety Strategy, the Department will focus on using all available tools, including education, outreach, engineering solutions, and enforcement, to address persistent behavioral safety issues. A robust and comprehensive approach to influencing human behavior also requires deepening our understanding of underlying causes through research.

Encourage safe, responsible driving and behavior by people who use our roads and create conditions that prioritize their ability to reach their destination unharmed.



The safety of people is U.S. DOT's core mission. Enabling people to be safer includes actions to encourage safer behaviors among the driving public, commercial drivers, and all road users.

People generally use the roadway system in a safe manner on any given trip, but mistakes, lapses in judgment, and other more significant risky behaviors still occur.

Behavioral Safety Factors

The three most frequent and persistent behavioral safety factors in fatal crashes are:

1. People in motor vehicles not wearing seat belts
2. Driving while impaired from alcohol
3. Speeding

On the next page, the visual on the left side highlights the impacts of these three critical behavioral safety factors in terms of passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2020. To the right of that are links to DOT dashboard that reflect the key departmental actions to enable **SAFER PEOPLE**.



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