

Tools for Life – Weekly Health & Safety Meeting



Home Healthy - Home Safe

April 2021

Forklift Safety TIPS

OSHA estimates 680,400 incidents involving forklifts occur. Apollo has experienced its own incidents with forklifts over the years. Lets review 2 recent incidents and discuss how they could have been prevented:

1. On a Portland job, a non-Apollo employee was transporting bundle of 1.5 inch rebar by forklift. The load became unbalanced and fell into a 60 ft long pit about 20 feet from where 2 Apollo employees were working. The rebar struck equipment at the bottom of the hole. By sheer luck no Apollo employees were injured. How could this have been prevented?
2. An Apollo telehandler operator was moving some gang boxes from the work site to the laydown yard. To improve visibility in a high traffic area he raised the forks. He didn't realize that the arm goes up quicker as the gas is pressed and didn't check the final height. As he drove under a trestle, the mast of the forks caught the trestle and the machine became wedged (all four tires off the ground) between concrete road and the steel trestle. How could this have been prevented?

TIPS for Better Forklift Operation

- Inspect the forklift every day before use.
- DO NOT operate a forklift unless you have been trained and certified.
- Use seat belts if they are available.
- If damage or problems occur with the forklift during your shift, tell your supervisor.
- Use extreme caution on grades and ramps.
- On grades, tilt the load back and raise it only as far as needed to clear the road surface.
- Do not raise or lower the forks while the forklift is moving.
- Do not drive up to anyone standing in front of a bench or other fixed object.
- Travel backward with the load if you cannot see in front of you.
- Also, look toward the travel path and keep a clear view of it.
- Sound the horn as you approach and while turning corners where you cannot see.
- Band or secure loads on forklifts if they could fall.

HEALTH OR SAFETY REMINDER: You will learn a lot about yourself if you stretch in the direction of goodness, of bigness, of kindness, of forgiveness, of emotional bravery. Be a warrior for love." -- Cheryl Strayed

Discussion Points / Question:

1. What will we do at our worksite today to prevent forklift injuries or deaths?