

Fork Truck Operation

Statistics, Hazards,
and Proper Use Tips



Qualified Operators



- Qualifications
 - physical ability
 - visual
 - auditory
- Demonstrated ability to operate the machine (evaluation by a qualified person)

Training

- General in nature
- Common to most applications and uses of fork trucks
- Employees must receive site/task/machine-specific training at the client site
- A record of the site- specific training should be kept at your office

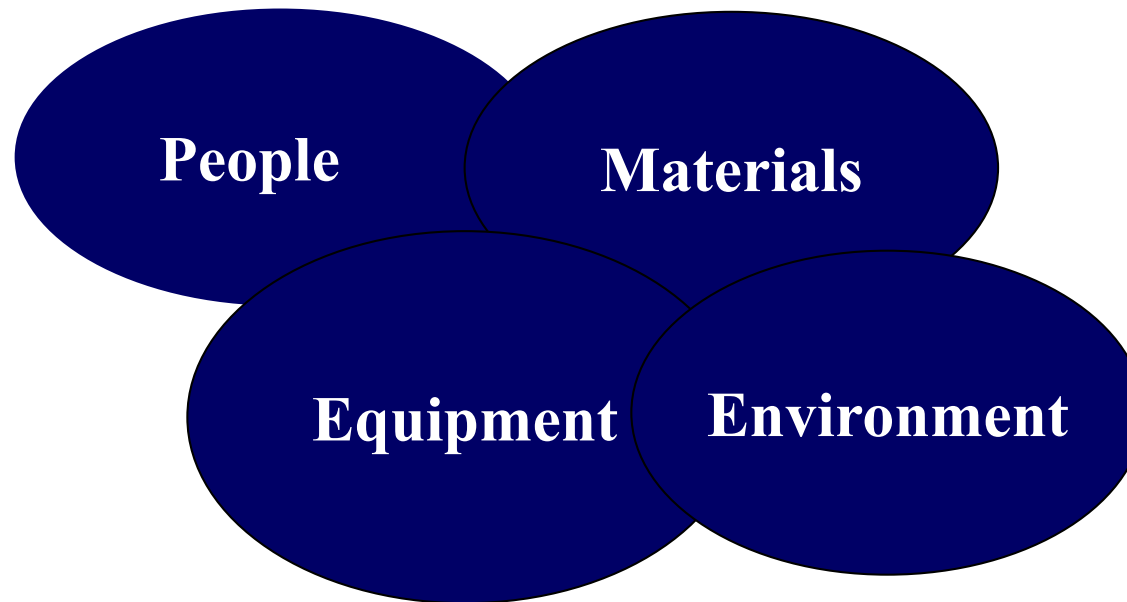


Why is Training Necessary?

- To prevent accidents and injuries
 - To assure operator safety
 - To assure pedestrian safety
 - To comply with OSHA Regulations
- Forklift truck fatalities:
 - Crushed by Tipping – 42%
 - Multiple Vehicle – 11%
 - All Others – 14%

Hazards

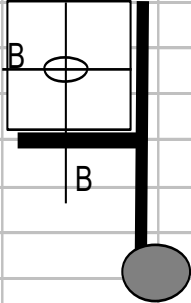
Hazards result from the interactions of these forces in the workplace.



What are some examples of hazards in each category?

Forklift Nameplate

Nameplate Information

WHAT A TRUCK FORKLIFT			
Model: 23435637WAT		Mast	FSV
Serial No.	8998765	Back Tilt	6
Weight (lbs)	8500	Tire Size	FR 7.25 12 12/120
Type	LP		RR 6.5 9 10/100
Rated Capacity with Vertical Upright equipped as shown			
	Capacity	Load Center "B"	This forklift meets all ASME and ANSI standards in effect on the date of mfg.
	2400	20 in	
	2450	24 in	
	2150	30 in	
<p>Warning!! improper operation or maintenance of this truck could result in injury or death. Operate the truck only after being trained and reading the operators manual.</p>			

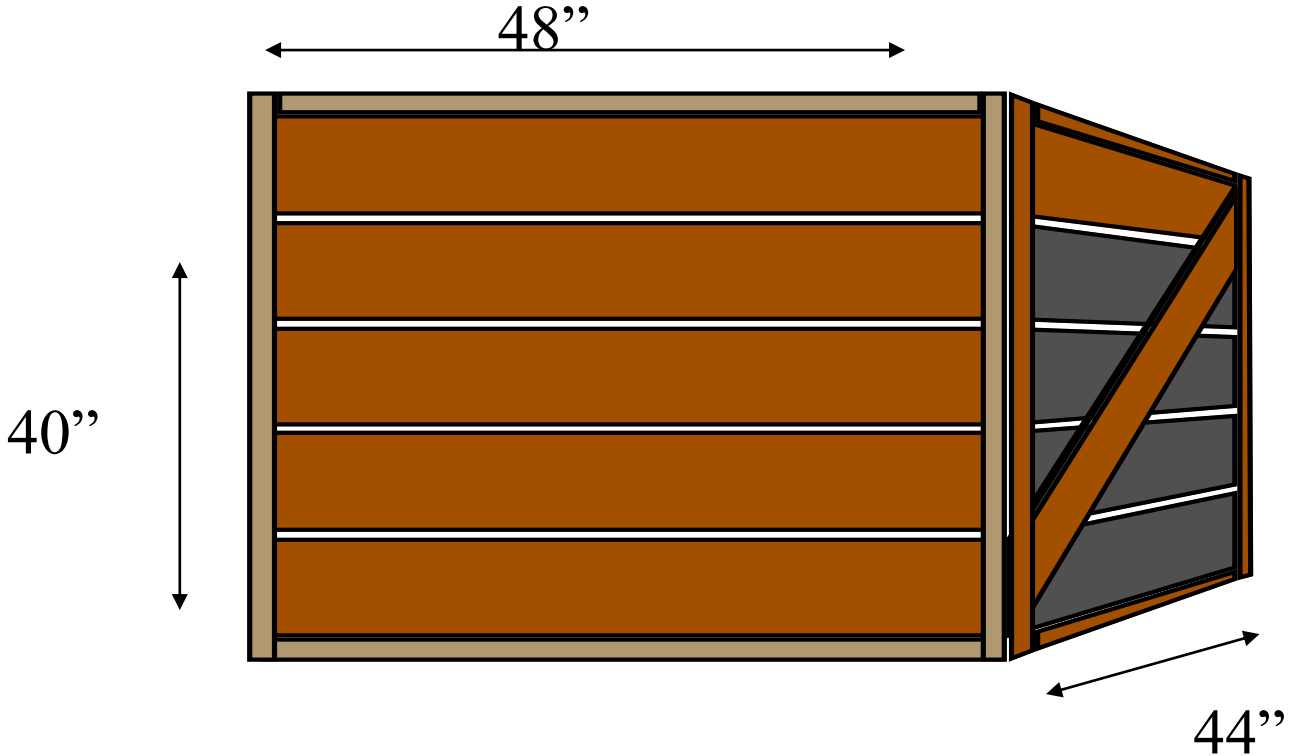
Center of Gravity

The key term in tipping incidents is “Center of Gravity”



Center of Gravity

What is the load center of this crate?

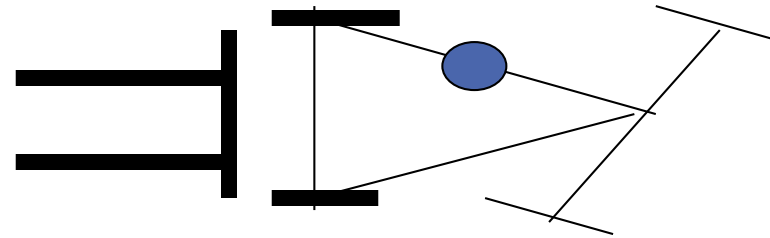
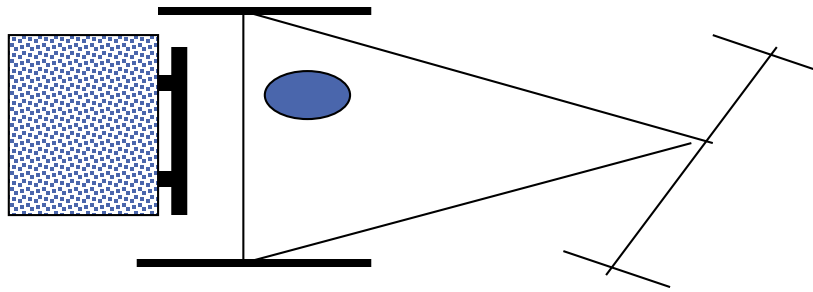


Center of Gravity

As the load is raised, the combined center of gravity will also raise.



Cornering and Truck Stability

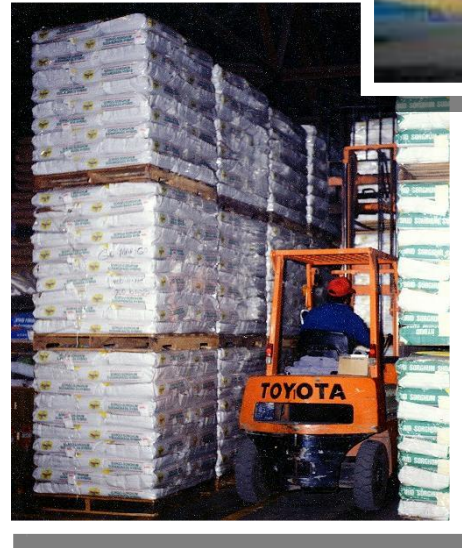


Which of these trucks is more stable?

Work Pace

The following operations should be done slowly:

- Lifting and tilting the load
- Positioning the load on the stack
- Turning corners



Why Tip Overs Occur

- Turning at excessive speeds
- Overloading the truck
- Turning the truck with the load in a raised/tilted position
- Travel on uneven surface
- Applying brakes or acceleration while turning
- Excessive braking can cause forward or backward tips (depending on direction of travel)



If a Tip Over Occurs

- Never jump from the truck
- Brace yourself
- Lean away from the direction of the tip
- Hold on firmly
- Always wear the seat belt!



What are the effects of adding an attachment such as a carpet rod or a drum clamp to the lift truck?

Hint: Adding the attachment to the front of the truck will move the load further from the truck frame. Also consider the weight of the attachment.

Pre-Operational Safety Inspection

- Tires
- Audible warning devices
- Seat belt
- Hydraulics
- Operator's deck
- Steering
- Safety Equipment
 - fire extinguisher
 - tools
 - etc.

Report any unsafe conditions to a supervisor
BEFORE operating the truck!

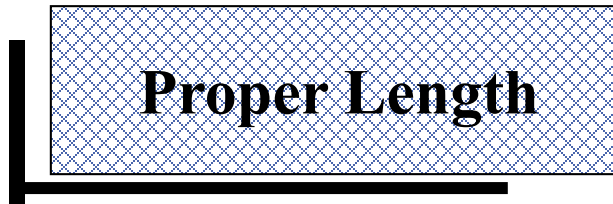
Types of Trucks

- Internal Combustion
 - Gasoline
 - LPG
 - Diesel
- Electric



Forks

Forks should extend 3/4 of the distance under the load.



Common Sense Operating Tips



- Never allow anyone to stand on the forks or ride on the outside of the truck
- Never allow anyone to walk or work under a suspended load
- Wear proper PPE
- Do a pre-op check



Common Sense Operating Tips

- Slow down for turns and do not accelerate or brake while turning
- Pay attention to pavement conditions (indoor and outdoor)
- Never “Monkey Around” while operating the truck



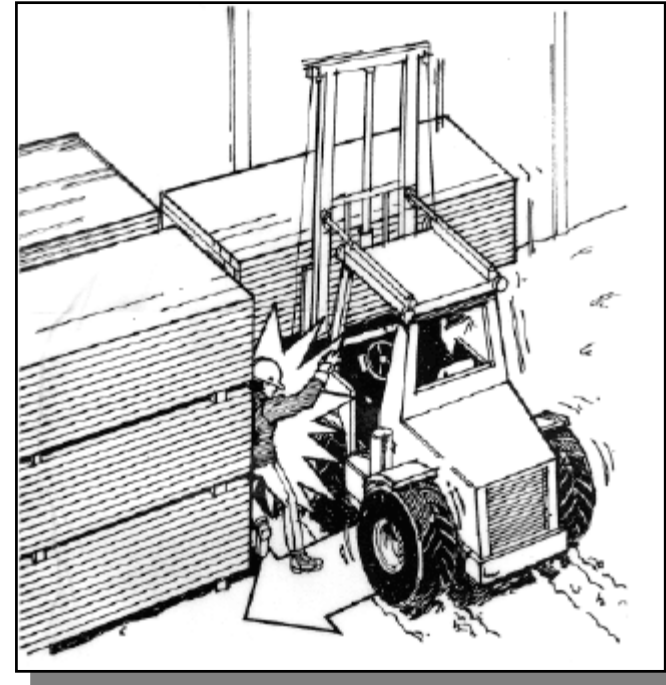
Common Sense Operating Tips



- Always be alert and stay focused!
- Watch for pedestrians -they may not be watching for you!
- Consider blind spots when turning and operating in reverse.

Pinch Points

- Between trucks
- Between the truck and a wall
- Between moving parts on the truck
- Between the truck and the load



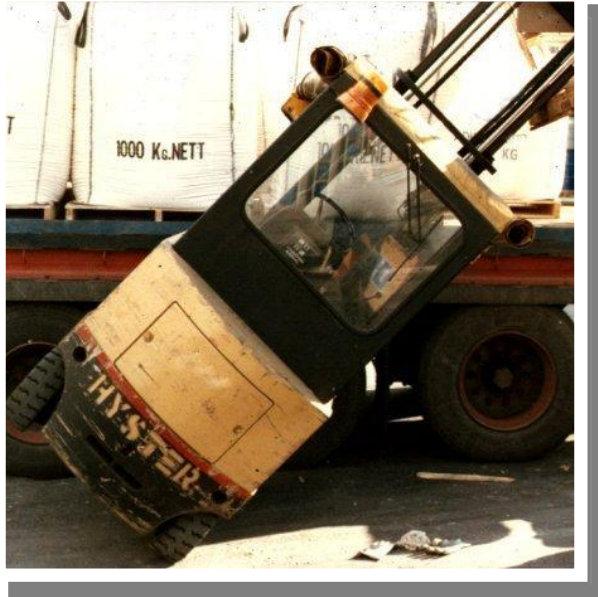
Direction of Travel

Forward = Travel in the direction of the load

Reverse = Travel in the direction opposite of the load

- Which way should the operator travel when transporting a load uphill?
- When transporting a load downhill?
- Does this change if the truck is not loaded? Why?

Safety Concerns when Loading or Unloading



- Make sure that the load is secure
- Assure even and level distribution of the load
- Tilt the mast only enough to stabilize the load
- Do not use an improvised counterweight

Safety Concerns when Refueling

- Handling Fuel
 - Grounding
 - Bonding
- No Smoking
- Use PPE
 - Eye Protection
 - Gloves
- Know the location of fire protection in the area.



Safety Concerns for LPG

- Volatile substance
- Highly explosive
- Detecting leaks
 - Look: frosting or visible vapor cloud
 - Listen: a hissing sound indicates escaping vapor
 - Smell: A distinct odor will indicate a leak

Summary Points

- The primary cause of fatalities involving fork trucks is _____
- The key term in tipping is _____
- Operating Hazards
 - Pedestrians
 - Loading/Unloading
 - Traveling
- Types of trucks and refueling hazards

