

TAKE FORKING SAFETY SERIOUSLY



SAFETY GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WORKING NEAR FORKLIFTS

We're serious about forking safety, and you should be too.

If you work near forklifts, this guide will help keep you safe.

Keep your distance

Fully loaded, a standard forklift and its load can have a combined weight of five or more tonnes.

If you work near forklifts, you are equally at risk from being killed or seriously injured through being hit or crushed by the forklift itself, or being hit or crushed by the load the forklift is moving.

You are most at risk of being hit by a forklift or its load if you are:

- walking alongside it
- picking stock off a nearby shelf
- walking in between it and a delivery vehicle
- stepping in to its path, or
- assisting with loading/unloading.

What you can do:

- Always keep a safe distance.
- Stay on pedestrian pathways and/or safety zones.
- Be aware that a forklift operators field of vision is obscured by the mast and load – don't assume they have seen you.
- Never approach a moving forklift to speak with the operator. Wait for the forklift to stop and the operator to acknowledge your presence before approaching.

- Establish eye contact with the forklift operator before crossing an aisle.
- Don't assist in loading or unloading unless you have been trained and authorised to do so.
- Give way to moving vehicles, including forklifts.
- Don't use your mobile or headphones.
- Wear a forklift-to-worker proximity warning device, if available.
- Wear high visibility clothing and other appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE).

Always follow the site safety rules, traffic management plan and safety instructions from your employer.



For more information on forklift safety see safework.nsw.gov.au or call 13 10 50



Disclaimer

This publication may contain information about the regulation and enforcement of work health and safety in NSW. It may include some of your obligations under some of the legislation that SafeWork NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation.

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website legislation.nsw.gov.au

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

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