



Typical mistakes that lead to forklift accidents – operators

- Failing to keep a lookout
- Going too fast
- Trying to enter confined spaces
- Driving a forklift that has mechanical defects
- Placing forklift in an imbalanced position

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FORKLIFT SAFETY

Here we're reviewing some of the most common mistakes that forklift drivers make, contributing to accidents.

As an illustration of the first point, let's look at the following true story.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE

Bill, as we'll call him, was driving a forklift with a special squeeze attachment for carrying big rolls of paper. Only trouble was, the load was almost a foot higher than the steering wheel, so Bill was having trouble seeing in front of him. He tried to crane his neck to see around the rolls, but it was hard.

Suddenly, there was a scream and a jarring crash. The forklift stopped dead and Bill jumped down. There in the path of the machine, stuck between the load and an abutment, was co-worker Barney.

Barney had been walking in the same direction as Bill, but Bill couldn't see him. Barney suffered crush injuries to his head and chest and died in the hospital.

(ask the participants)

What did Bill do wrong?

Correct answer: A couple of things. First, he didn't keep a proper lookout, because he couldn't with his oversized load. He should have looked for another conveyance to move the paper. But even if he'd proceeded with the forklift he had, he could have made things somewhat safer for co-workers by sounding his horn and/or flashing his lights periodically.

(OSHA investigation)