

## Handling Large Loads

Watch clearances carefully when handling loads that are long, tall or wide. Load end-swing may not be recognized and could cause injury to personnel or damage to objects nearby.

Where the load will obstruct the operator's visibility, it is required that the forklift be operated in REVERSE, looking rearward in the direction of travel. Travel at a slower speed and have someone direct you.

## Operator Training

The most serious forklift accidents are those involving overturns, run-overs and work platforms. By training to recognize and avoid the hazards associated with these types of accidents, such accidents can be avoided.

### Forklift Operator Self-Test (True/False):

1. I have received formal classroom and hands-on forklift operator training within the last three years and been evaluated by my employer on this jobsite.
2. I have read and understand the Operator's Manual(s) for the forklift(s) I operate.
3. I know how to perform a pre-operation check on the forklift before starting.
4. I never drive with the load blocking my view unless I have a spotter.
5. I know the safety rules for operating near people and have received site-specific training.

If you answered **False** to any of these questions, for your safety and the safety of others; SEE your supervisor – you may need more training.

## Safety Resources

- ANSI/ITSDF B56.6 - 2005 – Safety Standard for Rough Terrain Forklift Trucks: <http://www.itsdf.org>
- OSHA publications: <http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.html>
- OSHA/AEM Alliance materials: <http://www.aem.org/SRT/Safety/Alliances/OSHA/>

Operator training reduces accidents, and **it's required by law**. U.S. OSHA regulation, Title 29, Section 1910, 178(I), requires employers in general industry and the construction, ship-yard and cargo-handling industries (except agricultural operations) to ensure that forklift operators are competent, as demonstrated by successfully completing a training course and being evaluated. Refresher training is required at least every three years and earlier when circumstances indicate.

## Safety Manuals



For Forklift Safety Manuals in English, Portuguese and Spanish, visit: <http://shop.aem.org>

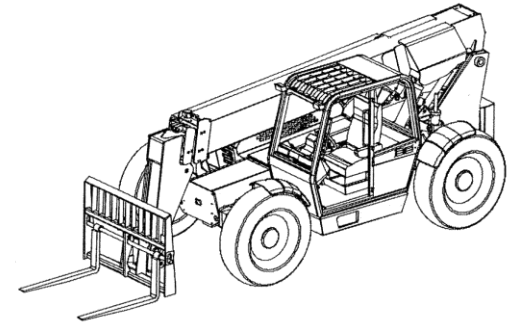
### What you don't **KNOW** can hurt you.

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# “TO SEE”

## PREVENTING ROUGH-TERRAIN FORKLIFT ACCIDENTS



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**Best Practices Bulletin 5/11**

## Work Area Hazards

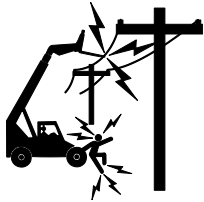
### Safe operators have been instructed on the work area and its hazards.

Walk around the worksite and inspect the surface(s) over which the forklift will be expected to travel.

#### Look for – Recognize – Anticipate – Avoid:

- Holes
- Drop-offs
- Obstacles
- Rough Spots
- Wet Spots
- Electric Lines and Apparatus
- Soft Soil
- Deep Mud
- Standing Water
- Oil Spills
- Slippery Surfaces

If any of the above-listed conditions exist in the work area, inform your supervisor they need to be corrected before operation. If the condition cannot be corrected, avoid operating in the hazardous area.



ALWAYS keep boom and load at least 10 feet (3,1 meter) from electric power lines up to 50,000 volts. Electric power from high voltage lines can ground through the structure of the machine even without direct contact and result in electrocution or explosion.

When operating on docks, ramps, floors or demolition areas, check for weak spots. Clear away trash and debris. Pick up anything that could puncture a tire. As necessary, check the forklift's documentation for fully loaded ground pressure information or contact your supervisor if concerned about flooring support.

## Operation

### Before entering the forklift:

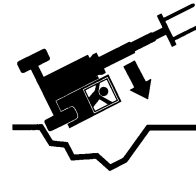
Walk completely around the forklift, checking that no one is under or on the forklift.

### Before operating the forklift, check:

- All instruments, gauges, indicator lights
- Horn and backup alarm (if equipped)
- Steering, right and left
- All controls for proper operation
- Brakes and inching pedal, if provided, for proper operation

### Watch for any conditions that could cause:

- Loss of control
- Collision
- Tip-over



Never allow passengers to ride on the forklift. Forklifts are designed for ONE PERSON operation only.



## Prevent Forklift Accidents “SEE”

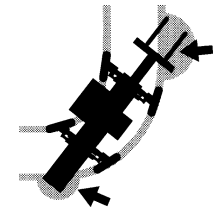
## People In the Work Area

Know the rules for movement of people and equipment on the worksite.



Look in the direction of travel and clear the path before moving the forklift.

Ensure that adequate clearance is provided for both rear tail swing and front fork swing of the forklift to avoid injury and damage to nearby personnel and objects.



Know if there are any blind corner conditions on the worksite. Before turning a blind corner, stop, sound the horn, and proceed slowly.

Slow down for people and sound the horn, making sure that your approach has been seen by those in your path.

Do not move the forklift until your presence has been recognized and the path is clear.

If you will be placing loads in areas where visibility is limited, use a signal person near where the load is to be placed.

## What you don't SEE can Hurt you

