OSHA has developed extensive regulations detailing operator training requirements, forklift inspection needs, safe driving rules, and requirements for charging and changing batteries. The regulations even spell out what type of vehicle must be used in certain types of work areas. For example, if you have an area with flammable gases or combustible dusts, it makes a difference how the forklift is powered.

The following tips will help you minimize potential accidents:

- High-lift-rider industrial trucks should be equipped with overhead guards.
- Anyone operating a forklift needs to have been trained and be able to show a valid certificate.
- Rated capacity of the lift should be clearly marked for the operator.
- When general lighting is less than 2 lumens per square foot, auxiliary lights should be provided.
- Steering knobs or spinners should not be installed on steering wheels where the steering hand wheel may spin in rough terrain, such as construction ruts or curbing.
- Battery-powered industrial trucks need designated charging areas with eye wash available, fire protection, and adequate ventilation.
- Operators should always wear seat belts and look out for other workers in the area.

Safety Tip #3

Chance takers are accident makers.
Additional Information for Presenters
Review the information provided on the reverse side of this safety tip sheet. Please refrain from reading the information verbatim—paraphrase it instead.

Talking Points:
Federal safety standards call for all forklift operators to be trained. Do all operators on this site have a documented card or certificate?

OSHA Standards That May Apply:
- 1910.178  Powered industrial trucks
- 1926.600  Equipment
- 1926.602(c)  Material handling equipment

Links:
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
  www.osha.gov/SLTC/poweredindustrialtrucks
- Forklift tech™
  www.forklifttech.com
- Coastal Training Technologies Corp.
  www.coastal.com
- Forklift Safety Training Services, Inc.
  www.forkliftsafety.com

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