

Spring 2017

Edited by Bruce Hulberg

Forklift Safety: Newsletter



Safety and Rescue Training
for high-hazard work activities

**Confined Space
Fall Protection
Excavation
Forklift**

Forklift Train the Trainer Schedule

April 25 - Eugene
May 19 - Boardman
June 13 - Medford
October 3 - Eugene

Register online at:

www.d2000safety.com

or email:

bhulberg@d2000safety.com

Have a forklift safety story or photo to share?

Please send it to Bruce at:

bhulberg@d2000safety.com

We will not publish company or individual's names. You can also contact Bruce to be added to our newsletter email.

Our programs reflect:

ANSI/ASSE Z490.1 *Criteria for Accepted Practices in Safety, Health, and Environmental Training*

Traditional open-style loading docks should always be a concern for safety managers since there is nothing to prevent a forklift from driving off the edge of the dock. Pedestrians have also been injured falling off loading docks.



OSHA requirements don't provide much guidance. Loading docks must have guardrails only if they are four feet or more above ground level, but most loading docks are 48" to 52". How often have you seen guardrails on loading docks? Not often.

In addition, forklifts must "maintain a safe distance" from the edge of the dock. This means that it is up to the employer to determine that distance and ensure that drivers maintain this distance.

So what are some best practices to consider for open-style loading docks?

- ◆ Add physical barriers to prevent forklifts and pedestrians from falling off the edge. There are many options; but consider adding standard handrails with a gate that opens for truck loading.
- ◆ Restrict pedestrian access to the dock via training, signage, and barriers. Never allow an employee to stand between a trailer and the dock.
- ◆ Provide safe access to the dock for forklifts. This might include adding a ramp with side rails.
- ◆ Make sure you have sufficient lighting.
- ◆ Keep dock clean and store minimal amount of material on the dock.
- ◆ Beware of wet/icy docks; use de-icer if needed.
- ◆ Paint the edge of the loading dock to improve visibility
- ◆ Add dock bumpers.

Fortunately the style of loading docks has changed. Many companies who ship extensively by trucks have installed individual bay doors, bumper locking devices, light systems, etc. which has greatly improved safety.



As a final reminder please chock the trailer wheels and inspect the trailer before loading.

