

Summer, 2018

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

Oct. 16, 2018 - Eugene
Feb 19, 2019 - Eugene
April 23, 2019 - Boardman
May 14, 2019 - Medford
Oct. 15, 2019 - 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*

Load Characteristics: Which Ones Matter?

Part 1 of 2 - Load Stability and Friction

Loads can have many different characteristics. Which should we take into account before moving them?

In this first part of our two-part series, we'll see how the load's stability and friction affect safety. In the next issue, (*Fall, 2018*) we will look at the load's weight and center of gravity. Let's start with load stability.

Load Stability

Assessing load stability begins by looking at how the load is contained. Loads might be loose in bins, shrink wrapped, banded, or merely stacked on pallets.

To ensure nothing gets spilled, you must know the stacking guidelines. You also have to consider the forces you will impose on the load (when accelerating, braking, turning) may affect the load's stability. If in doubt, consider stabilizing the load before lifting.

Friction

Forks are polished steel which has a relatively low coefficient of friction (in others words, it's slippery!). Without a physical barrier of some kind (e.g., rearward tilt, pallet slots, spacers) your load may slide on the forks, particularly when stopping or turning.

If your load or the forks are wet or frozen the likelihood of slipping increases.

Magnetic fork covers (seen in the photo on the right) can increase the friction between the forks and the load.

We can also run into problems if we overlook the friction between layers of stacked materials. When transporting these types of loads, occasionally glance at the containment devices (if any) and look for any sliding or displacement of the layers.

In Part Two we will consider how weight, shape and dimensions affect material transport. Follow this link to read [Part 2 of 2 - Weight and Center of Gravity](#)

