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Forklift Safety: Newsletter



Safety and Rescue Training

for high-hazard work activities

Confined Space
Fall Protection
Excavation
Forklift

Forklift Train the Trainer Schedule

April 12 - Boardman
April 19 - Eugene
May 24 - Medford

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 Z490.1-2009 *Criteria for Accepted Practices in Safety, Health, and Environmental Training*

Telehandlers: Just Another Forklift?

A telehandler is defined as: *A vehicle with a telescopically extensible boom, which can be fitted with various lifting or manipulative devices such as pallet forks.* The word is a combination of telescopic and handler.

The use of telehandlers has exploded due to their ability to lift, transport, and stack material, particularly on construction sites. But are these devices just another type of counter-balanced forklift? If someone can operate a standard forklift, are they qualified to operate a telehandler?



The short answer is: *No.*

The longer answer is based on the fact that a telehandler is actually a combination of a forklift and a crane. Depending on the type of attachment they have, they may fall under OSHA's crane requirements which introduces a whole new set of standards to the operation of these devices.

In any case, telehandlers differ from sit-down counterbalanced forklifts in a number of important ways including:

- The capability to elevate and extend a load away from the chassis which greatly increases the chances of a tipover.
- Being designed with a variety of steering modes.
- Availability of a wider variety of attachments including ones used for suspended loads.
- A wider variety of designs including rotating turrets.
- Requirements for the operator to refer to load charts and calculate the weight of each load.
- Incorporation of chassis leveling, outriggers, load management systems, and limiters.



The reality is that the operation of a telehandler requires a greater degree of knowledge and skill than a sit-down counterbalanced forklift operator.

If your crews are operating this equipment, you may want to look into D2000's *Telehandler Operator Certification* program to ensure that they understand the limitations and best practices associated with telehandlers.

