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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

October 25 - 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.

Fork Inspection: Six Essential Steps

Forks that break or show excessive wear pose a serious hazard. Fortunately thorough pre-use inspections can identify these deficiencies before they cause accidents.

Here are six items that your fork inspection should cover:

1) Surface cracks: Examine the heel area and welds attaching the mounting components to the fork blades. Visible surface cracks mean the fork should be removed from service. (See red arrow).

Surface Cracks

2) Blade and shank straightness: Use a square to check for straightness. A 48-inch fork should not have more than one quarter-inch deviation on either the blade or the shank.

3) Excessive fork angle: The fork angle must be between 87 and 93 degrees.

Blade Damage

4) Tip levels: The tips of the forks should be close to the same level (within 3% of the fork's blade length).

5) Fork hooks and fork positioning lock for damage: Any damage or a missing pin can cause the forks to shift unexpectedly.

6) Blade wear and other damage: A loss of 10% in the thickness of the blade will result in a 20% decrease of the fork's strength. Be sure to inspect the fork tips as well.

Tip Damage

There are several useful tools that can help you assess your forks. For example, Cascade Corporation makes a caliper that can be used to measure fork wear. www.cascorp.com. If you have any questions on inspecting forks, please feel free to contact us.

Our programs reflect:

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