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Forklift Safety > Newsletter



Mechanics Corner

Safety and Rescue Training
for high-hazard work activities

Confined Space
Fall Protection
Excavation
Forklift

Upcoming Forklift Train the Trainer Classes

January 29 - Medford
March 11 - Portland
April 22 - Eugene
May 6 - Bend
May 8 - Pendleton

Register online at:
www.d2000safety.com

or email:
bhulberg@d2000safety.com

Have a forklift safety story or photo to share?

If so, we'd love to know about
it. Please email Bruce Hulberg
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 list.

Our programs reflect:

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

Did you ever come to work and *YOUR* forklift was broken down?

So, you start looking for the spare forklift to operate. You find the old clunker sitting in the corner and remember how poorly the controls work, the seat is cut up and doesn't adjust very well, and it's filthy. The thought of having to operate it for the entire shift makes you cringe.

Later in the day you stop by the shop and ask when your forklift is going to be fixed. That's when you find out that the engine seized from a lack of motor oil and it will take a week or two before it can be fixed.

It is frustrating for a mechanic to repair forklifts that are not being taken care of. When a mechanic performs routine maintenance on a forklift and finds it low on oil it tells him/her that the operator is not performing a thorough pre-operation check of the forklift. This may happen when forklifts are used by multiple operators who assume that the other operator checked the fluid levels. They may reason that they only need to use the forklift for a minute so why perform a pre-operation check.

OSHA and most company policies require forklift operators to perform a daily pre-operation check at the start of their shift. Although OSHA doesn't require a written checklist it is a best practice to do so. Otherwise you wouldn't be able verify that the pre-operation check is being done properly. **IT'S SIMPLE:** The better you care for your forklift the less it will break down!

Recommendations:

- 1) Train your forklift operators how to perform a thorough pre-operation check.
- 2) Maintain your fluid levels at all times.
- 3) Notify your mechanic of any issues with the forklift.

