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Edited by Bruce Hulberg

## Forklift Safety > Newsletter



Safety and Rescue Training  
for high-hazard work activities

Confined Space  
Fall Protection  
Excavation  
**Forklift**

### Upcoming Forklift Train the Trainer Classes

November 5 - Bend  
November 12 - Pendleton  
December 3 - Salem  
December 5 - Roseburg  
January 14 - Albany

Register online at:  
[www.d2000safety.com](http://www.d2000safety.com)  
or email:  
[bhulberg@d2000safety.com](mailto: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](mailto: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*

## Chain Stretch

*Why should a forklift operator be concerned with chain stretch?*

Chain stretch isn't necessarily something that most forklift operator's even think about. Yet it has a huge bearing on the safe operation of your lift truck. Think about it. Forklift operators rely on their chains to lift thousands of pounds daily. And what happens when the chains break? Your load is coming down RIGHT NOW!!! That can lead to property damage, production down time, forklift down time for repairs, and injury!

The rate of chain stretch increases when operators repeatedly exceed the lifting capacity of their forklifts. A few operators have even modified their forklifts by adding additional weight to their forklifts counterweight with the intent of increasing the lifting capacity of their forklift. However, the end result is increasing the likelihood that their chains will break. This can be costly!

This photo compares a section of old chain (on left) with new chain (on right). Notice how dramatically the old chain is stretched. The stretch typically occurs around the eye of the link and is visible when you examine the gap between the chain plates. Chain stretch is most noticeable on parts of the chain that travel over the rollers.

Forks are normally adjusted so that in the down position there is a 1/4" gap. As the chain stretches the gap disappears and the forks wear out prematurely.

### Recommendations:

- 1) Train your forklift operators how to inspect forklift chains.
- 2) Lubricate and adjust chains regularly.
- 3) Replace forklift chains **BEFORE** they wear out!

