

December, 2014

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

January 20 - Eugene  
January 27 - Bend  
April 14 - Boardman  
April 28 - Salem  
May 19 - Medford

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?

Please send it to Bruce 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.

Our programs reflect:

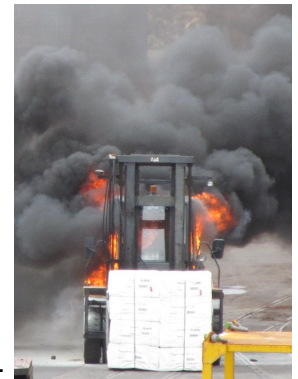
**ANSI/ASSE Z490.1** *Criteria for Accepted Practices in Safety, Health, and Environmental Training*

## Forklifts and Fires

Do forklifts pose a fire hazard? Absolutely. And are all your forklifts equipped with fire extinguishers? Hopefully.

*Let's review some of the main ways that your forklift can create a fire hazard.*

- ◆ Oil and fuel leaks are an obvious fire issue and should be identified during inspections and repaired immediately.
- ◆ Refueling areas pose hazards. There should be no smoking or ignition sources within 25 feet of refueling areas. Propane refueling stations must be equipped with break away protection. Battery charging areas should be well ventilated to disperse hydrogen gas.
- ◆ Facilities with actual or potential flammable atmospheres are required to use forklifts with specific safety features on the engine. (Refer to OSHA's Powered Industrial Truck regulations for further information.)
- ◆ Flammable dusts will settle in the engine compartment, most commonly around the exhaust manifold. Address this by setting up an engine blowdown schedule.
- ◆ Contact with overhead electrical conductors is another way to ignite combustibles. If this is a possibility, make sure the hazards are posted and operators trained.



### *When stacking/storing materials:*

- ◆ Nothing should be placed where it blocks access to walkways, escape routes, fire fighting equipment (extinguishers, hoses, etc.), first aid kits, or defibrillators.
- ◆ A minimum of 36" clearance must be maintained around MCC panels and transformers.
- ◆ For buildings with sprinklers, you must keep at least 18 inches between the sprinklers and material below them.
- ◆ For buildings without sprinklers material must not be stacked closer than 24 inches from the ceiling so responders can spray water over the top of the material.

