SECTION 5
SAFE LOAD HANDLING TECHNIQUES

Section 5 Objectives

At the end of this section, you will be able to:

1. Describe the safe routines for engaging, traveling with, and deploying loads.
2. Explain the safety routines for elevating employees.
3. Describe the procedure for surviving a tip-over.

Importance Statement

It is important that you:

1. Increase safety knowledge of operating lift trucks when handling and traveling with loads.
2. Protect yourself and fellow employees when required to elevate personnel.
3. Reduce the risk of serious injury or death if you are involved in a tip-over.

Assessing The Load

- Poorly balanced
- Damaged pallets
- Too heavy
  - Make the necessary repairs or have load weighed before moving.

Fork Position

- Evenly spaced, as far as the load permits
- Completely under load
- Fork locks in place and works

General Handling Techniques

- Do not drag forks on the ground. Dragging the forks on the ground causes premature wear and compromises the strength of the forks.
- Use extreme care when handling loads that are long, high, and wide. Use a spotter if necessary.
- Use extreme caution when operating a truck without an overhead guard or load backrest.
- A load backrest extension helps stabilize a large load. Loose loads should not be higher than the load backrest extension.

Engaging A Load

1. Move lift truck slowly into position squarely facing the load.
2. Move truck forward until load touches back of forks.
3. Do not slam into loads.
4. Carefully lift load and tilt back slightly to cradle the load.
5. Raise mast about 4-6 inches when picking from a stack.
6. Watch for top clearance when picking from a middle rack.
7. Sound horn, check behind you, and slowly back away.
8. As soon as load clears stack, lower mast to travel position.

Never travel or turn with load above travel position.

Inching Pedal

- Allows faster lift and lower speeds while adding creep movement to truck.
- Clutch plates slip when depressed, creating heat.
- Disengages transmission when depressed.
- Depressing pedal to the floor activates service brake.
- No inching pedal on electric trucks.
- Never use the inching pedal as a brake.

Never ride the inching pedal, which causes premature transmission and brake wear.

Executing Turns

- Approach and turn slowly
- Sound horn
- Start turn when inside drive tire reaches corner
- Watch rear end swing of truck

Rear End Swing

- Rear of truck swings out and around drive wheel path.
- If not careful, operator can cause product and property damage as well as injury to others.

Deploying Loads

1. Align truck and position mast. Stay a fork-length away from stack position.
2. Squarely face stack position.
3. Watch out for rear end swing.
4. Raise load to opening and creep into position.
5. Place load squarely on rack or stack.
6. Do not shove load around. Pick it up and reposition. Use sideshifter if truck is equipped with one. Shoving loads could break fork lock pins.
7. Do not overlower load. This causes slack in chain, and forks will suddenly drop when disengaged from the load.
8. Sound horn, check behind you, and slowly back away.
9. Lower forks to ground as soon as they clear stack or rack.
10. Watch for top clearance when deploying in middle rack.

Never travel or turn with load above travel position.

Never tilt mast forward beyond vertical when deploying loads. Lift truck capacity is based on lift height with mast vertical. Moving the mast past the vertical position creates a dangerous instability problem and could cause the truck to tip forward.

Elevating Personnel

About 12 percent of all lift truck accidents occur when employees fall off elevated forks.

- Use a work platform built in accordance with ANSI and Federal OSHA regulations.
- Platform must be secured to the lift truck.
- Operator must be at the controls at all times when personnel are raised.
- Never move with personnel raised on platform.

News Flash!

A man working from a lift truck mounted personnel basket sustained critical injuries when the basket caught on electrical lighting. The worker fell about 25 feet.

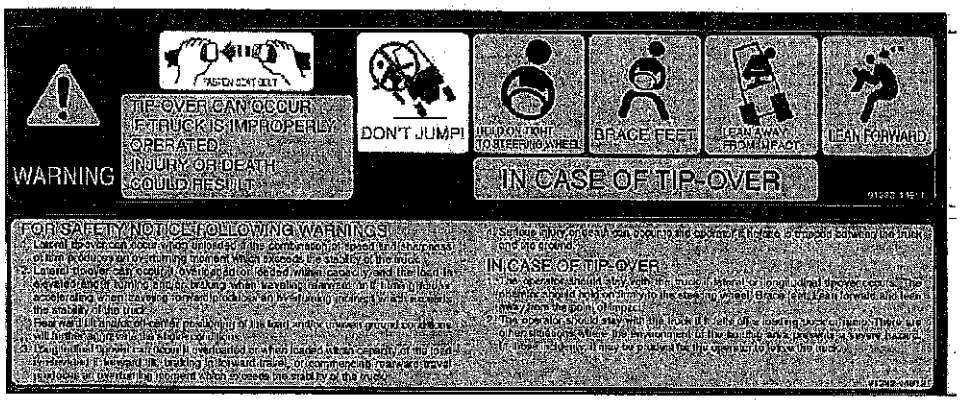
What happened?

Tip-Over Procedure

These are very important steps.

Always fasten seat belt anytime you operate your truck.

- Never jump! Stay with the truck.
- Hold on tight.
- Brace your feet.
- Lean forward and away from the fall.



News Flash!

A lift truck operator was killed when the lift truck he was operating tipped over and crushed him. The operator was traveling on a sloped surface and apparently tried to turn the truck to avoid an obstacle.

What happened?

End of Section 5

Safe Load Handling Techniques: Course Review

1. It is okay to shove a load around with your forks to get it into the proper storage position.

   True_____ False_____

2. You should never turn or travel with the load raised above travel position, 4-6 inches above ground.

   True_____ False_____

3. When placing a load on a stack, you can tilt the mast forward past the vertical position.

   True_____ False_____

4. When picking up a load, you should:

   A. Spread the forks as wide as the load permits.

   B. Make sure the load touches the back of the forks.

   C. Carefully pick up the load and tilt mast back slightly.

   D. All of the above.

5. If you are in a tip-over situation, you should:

   A. Hold on tight.

   B. Never jump.

   C. Brace your feet and lean forward and away from the fall.

   D. All of the above.

6. When elevating an employee on a maintenance platform, it is okay to leave the machine as long as you set the parking brake and turn the engine off.

   True_____ False_____