

Forklifts, if not operated safely, can cause injuries to workers. Every precaution must be taken to prevent injury to all personnel who may be walking in the same area as the forklift.

OSHA Standard 1910.178(l)(3)(ii)(D) *Powered industrial truck operators shall receive initial training in pedestrian traffic in areas where the vehicle will be operated.*

- To ensure precautions are taken to protect all personnel, including pedestrians, the forklift operator should walk the planned route first to spot any concerns that could become a hazard while they are driving the forklift.

When operating a forklift in an area where pedestrians might be present, forklift operators have the responsibility to:

- **Travel at a safe rate of speed** that will allow the forklift to come to a complete stop if an unexpected hazard or pedestrian is encountered along the route.
- **Keep a clear view** and look in the direction of the path of travel.
- **Watch around corners and blind spots** using convex mirrors (if available) to look for pedestrians that may be walking towards the same corner.
- **Use the horn to alert others** of the presence of the forklift at blind corners, aisles, and doors. When backing up use the forklift backing alarm, if equipped.
- **Listen for pedestrians** that may be calling out to warn that they are in the area.
- **Avoid distractions** such as wearing headphones, looking at a mobile device, or chatting with someone nearby.
- **Yield the right of way to pedestrians** when someone does walk into or across the planned route.



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When walking or working in an area where forklifts may be operating, pedestrians have the responsibility to:

- **Slow down and look carefully** when walking around corners or coming up to a new aisleway.
- **Listen for horns** and alarms from forklifts.
- **Remain a safe distance** from forklifts in use.
- **Avoid distractions** such as looking down at a cell phone or clip board or using headphones set at a high volume.
- **Make eye contact** with the forklift operator, and wait for acknowledgement, before proceeding near an area where the forklift is being used.
- **Use designated walkways**, if available, that are specifically reserved for foot traffic only.



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