

# Forklift Safety for Pedestrians

Forklifts are dangerous for the operator and for those in the surrounding areas. Pedestrians are at risk of suffering fatal and life-changing injuries if proper safety systems are not in place for forklift operations. Some of the causes of fatal injuries to pedestrians arise from:

- Being crushed by a forklift tip-over.
- Having toes and body parts run over by a forklift.
- Being struck by a forklift or by falling material.
- Falling from forks or a platform on the forklift.

Following simple rules and guidelines can prevent injuries from forklifts and can save your life. Below are some safety rules and things TO DO to remain safe in the workplace.

- Keep alert of forklift activity at all times. Be aware of where they are and what they are doing at all times.
- Keep a safe distance from the forklift and do not try to squeeze past them.
- Keep an ear out for horns, back up alarms and any other warning systems on the forklifts. Be extra careful in noisy areas as audible warnings may not be heard.
- Watch for visual lights projecting from forklifts that warn of its path.
- Look both ways before crossing aisles. Obey the traffic signs and use designated walk areas.
- Make eye contact before proceeding.
- Wear a high visibility shirt or vest in areas where the forklifts are operating.
- Watch where you place your hands and feet and stay clear of any pinch hazards such as wheels.



Image source - Getty Image

Below are some safety rules and things NOT TO DO.

- Do not cross the path of a forklift.
- Do not hitch a ride on any part of the forklift.
- Do not be a distraction to the driver. They have an important job so let them do it and do it safely.
- Do not walk under raised forks.
- Do not stand in areas where you could be crushed by a falling load. This would include areas near the forks and also in the adjacent aisle ways in case the load is pushed and falls off the other side of the racking.
- Do not horseplay around forklifts.
- Do not come out from a blind corner or an area of limited visibility without looking both ways.