

What is the hazard?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that there are approximately 85 fatalities and 34,900 serious injuries due to forklift use annually¹, and \$135 million in immediate costs are incurred.²

Between the years 2015-2016, 4 pedestrian workers were killed in forklift-related incidents in Kentucky.



Examples of pedestrian– related forklift fatalities that occurred in Kentucky include:

Case 1: A 17-year-old employee (the victim) was riding on the side of a single-occupant rough-terrain forklift, driven by a 19-year-old coworker. Intending to open a nearby gate, the victim jumped from the forklift before it was fully stopped. The rear tire caught his foot, fatally rolling over his torso.

Case 2: A forklift operator was moving a load, while the victim, on foot, was standing next to a dumpster. The forklift accelerated in reverse, striking a door frame, and pinning the victim between the forklift and dumpster.

Case 3: The victim was working on the hydraulic system of a forklift, standing beneath the forks, when the carriage fell on him.

Employers:

- Designate separate paths for pedestrian and forklift travel.
- Restrict pedestrian activity in forklift operating areas.
- Provide pedestrian safety training to all employees who may be exposed to forklifts and other vehicles.
- Ensure all forklift operators are trained and certified, per [CFR 1910.178\(l\)](#).

Forklift operators:

- Limit travel speed.
- Slow down, stop, and sound horn when approaching a corner, intersection, or anywhere that vision may be obstructed.
- Never allow a passenger on the forklift unless the forklift is designed to accommodate passengers.
- Do not place any body parts beneath the load or mast.

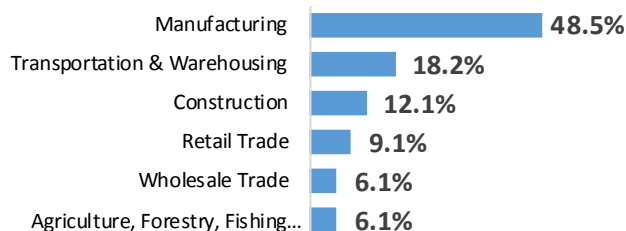
Pedestrians:

- Maintain a safe distance from forklifts.
- Always ensure the operator is aware of your position; make eye contact when possible.
- Exercise caution when walking near corners and intersections.
- Never enter pedestrian-restricted zones.
- Wear high-visibility clothing.
- Never walk under raised forks.

Additional Resources

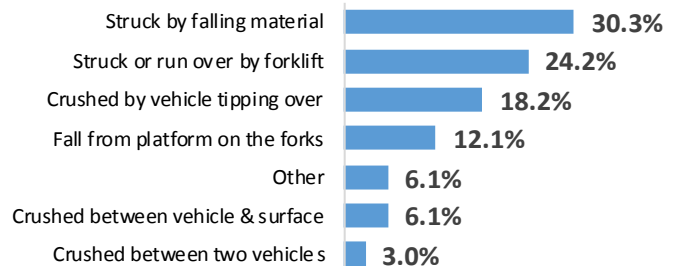
Resource	Description	Link
Powered Industrial Trucks (Forklift) - Inspections—eTool <i>Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)</i>	29 CFR 1910.178(g)(7) requires that all forklifts be inspected daily before being operated. This OSHA eTool provides requirements and best practices for such an inspection.	https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/pit/operations/servicing.html#preoperation
Case Report: Teen Laborer Rides on Side of Forklift, Falls While Jumping, and is Run Over by Rear Tire <i>KY FACE Program</i>	Full occupational fatality investigation report for Case 1.	http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/face/reports/pdf/15KY067.pdf
Preventing Injuries and Deaths of Workers Who Operate or Work Near Forklifts <i>National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health</i>	Safety resource provided by NIOSH addressing forklift pedestrian and driver safety.	https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2001-109/default.html
Forklift Toolbox Talk <i>Center for Construction Research and Training</i>	A toolbox talk worksheet to provide to employees.	https://www.cpwr.com/sites/default/files/publications/CPWR_Forklift_0.pdf

Occupational Forklift Operation Fatalities by Industry Sector, Kentucky, 2000-2015



Source: KY FACE Database. Produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC), a bona fide agent for the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Types of Fatal Forklift Incidents, Kentucky, 2000-2015



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Contact FACE:

Kentucky FACE Program

333 Waller Avenue Suite 242

Lexington, KY 40504

Toll Free: 800-204-3223 | Local: 859-257-5839

Email: kyfaceprogram@uky.edu

Website: <http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/face/index.html>

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References:

¹Proposed Rules—Powered Industrial Truck Operator Training. OSHA.

²Towards Improved Forklift Safety. National Institute of Standards and Technology.