

## TOOLBOX TALK ONE

### Keep Forklifts and People Separated

The three main causes of forklift deaths and serious injuries are:

- ✚ People being hit by a forklift
- ✚ People or drivers being hit by the load a forklift is carrying or lifting
- ✚ Drivers being crushed in a tip-over.

When it comes to working safely around forklifts, everyone is responsible for the health and safety of workers, contractors, volunteers, and any visitors to site.

RPR Trades have developed three toolbox talks to help you stay safe in the workplace.

#### Fact

People are most at risk of being hit by a forklift if they are:

- Walking alongside it
- Picking stock off a nearby shelf
- Walking in between it and a truck
- Stepping into its path, or
- Assisting with loading/unloading.

#### Case Study

A large distributor was moving frozen product in the lead up to Christmas. The loading dock was much more crowded than usual, limiting visibility.

A worker entered the loading dock to check stock for a pickup later in the afternoon. As he was checking, he had his back turned to the freezer. A forklift came out of the freezer in reverse and hit the worker, causing serious lower leg injuries.

There were clearly marked walkways with barriers throughout most of the workplace; however, the stock could not have been checked from the walkway. The driver was wearing a hoodie and had earphones in listening to music. The forklift was fitted with a working reversing sensor, but it could not be heard over the sound of the freezers.

The forklift driver said he sounded his horn before reversing, and was also looking behind, but CCTV footage showed he was looking toward the front of the forklift.

*Ask yourself, WHAT could have been done differently?*

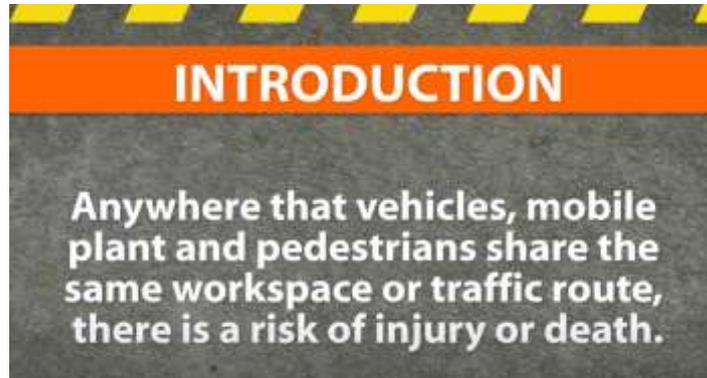


#### Here are a few possible Answers to prevent injury:

- Better staggering of product to prevent forklifts being in the same place as workers
- Re-schedule work activities so that forklifts are
- not in operation at the same time as workers checking stock
- Forklift driver checked over his shoulders
- Driver should have worn a beanie instead of a hoodie, to enable better vision
- Used proximity devices for forklifts and people
- Used pallet jacks instead of forks during busy times
- Not worn headphones on or near forklifts.

**Video**

Please take 2 minutes to click on the below **INTRODUCTION** and watch the video reminder of how to safely unload a truck.



**Summary**

It's important to remember that working safely in and around forklifts is everyone's responsibility.

ASK Yourself: Is there anything that we could be doing better in our workplace in relation to separating people and forklifts? If there is, speak to your RPR Trades Consultant / Safety / or your Supervisor.

**CONTACTS**

Phone: 1300 311 777 or call your local Consultant  
Email: [safety@rprtrades.com](mailto:safety@rprtrades.com) or e-mail your local Consultant

**FORKLIFTS AND PEOPLE DON'T MIX.  
WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER AND STAY IN THE AREAS DESIGNATED FOR YOU.**

# 10 RULES for Forklift Safety

- 1 Use safe speeds
- 2 Avoid abrupt stops
- 3 Pedestrians always have the right of way
- 4 Don't pick up other riders
- 5 Be aware of fork position
- 6 Keep right / in lane
- 7 Watch out of blind spots
- 8 Keep alert to floor conditions
- 9 Slow down and sound horn at corners
- 10 Keep the load level stationary when in motion

