

## TOOLBOX TALK TWO

### Don't Lose Your Load

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

Loads are more likely to fall from a forklift if the driver does not make sure they are stable on the pallet e.g. shrink wrapped, short and squat or secured to provide stability, or if the driver tries to move a load that would be better suited to an attachment.

Before using an attachment, operators must check that the forklift capacity plate names the attachment and look for the new capacity of the forklift, when the attachment is fitted.

**Note:** Fitting an attachment will usually de-rate the capacity of the forklift.

#### Case Study

A forklift operator was asked to move a 44-gallon drum of engine oil from one side of the workshop to another. The operator asked his co-worker to give him a hand. The co-worker tilted the drum back just enough for the forklift operator to place the tines (forks) underneath the drum.

The operator then lifted the drum up and drove in a forward direction while the co-worker placed his hands on the drum to steady it as he walked alongside the forklift.

The forklift then rolled on to a speed hump that the operator didn't see, because the load was raised too high, and the drum started to slide off the tines.

The co-worker yelled out to the operator to stop as he tried to stop the drum from sliding off.

The falling drum was too heavy for the co-worker, so he let it go. The drum fell and landed on him, causing serious ankle and foot injuries.

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

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

- Used a suitable lifting attachment such as a drum lifter
- Not placed the drum directly on to the tines / forks
- Travelled with the drum as low to the ground as possible
- Not tried to steady the load by hand
- Not allowed anyone to be in close proximity of the drum or forklift
- Travelled in reverse – the drum may obscure the operators view of things such as speed humps or other obstacles
- Decanted the oil into smaller containers or into a specialised container that can be lifted on the tines, foreexample a stillage bin.

**Video**

Please take 2 minutes to click on the [below](#) to watch the video reminder of how important it is to secure your load.



**Summary**

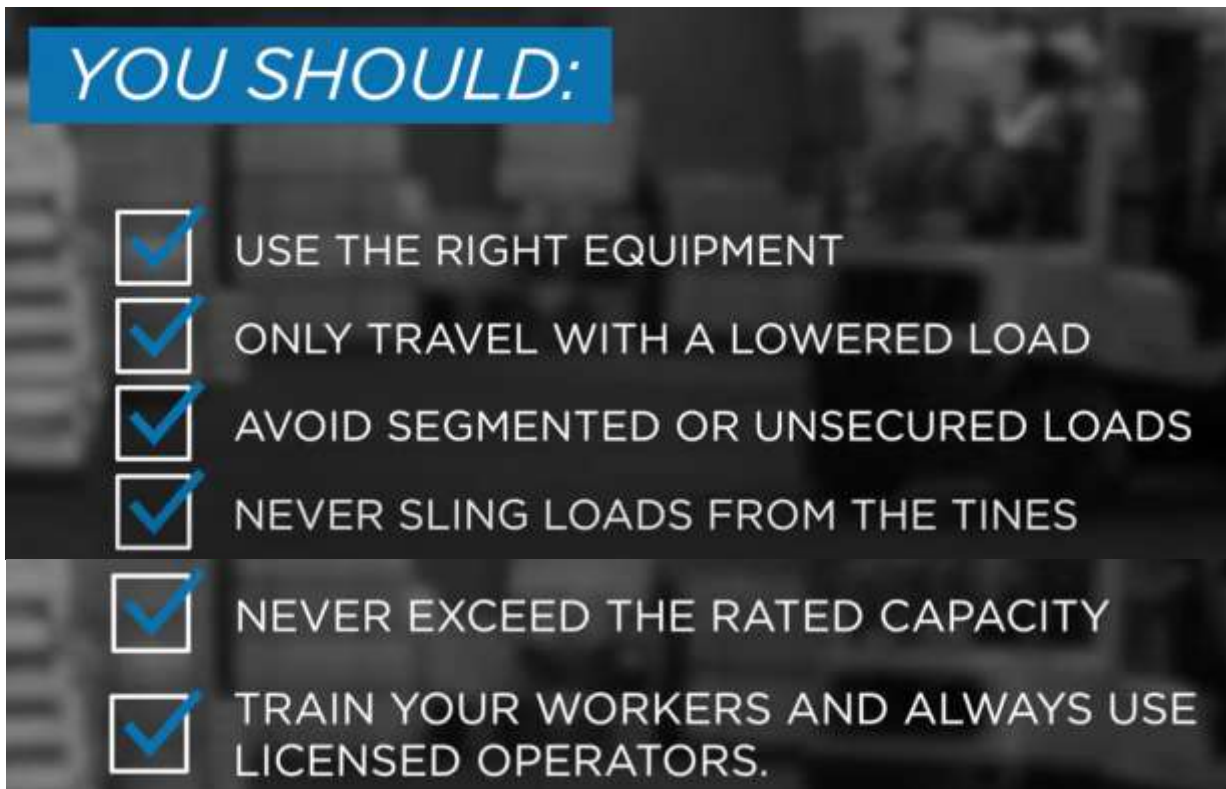
It's important to remember that working safely in and around forklifts is everyone's responsibility.

ASK Yourself: Is there anything that we could be doing better in our workplace in relation to ensuring we only move stable loads or use an attachment when needed? 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

MAKE SURE YOUR LOAD IS STABLE.  
USE A SUITABLE LIFTING ATTACHMENT IF YOU NEED TO.



On \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (insert date) at \_\_\_\_\_ am/ pm (time)

\_\_\_\_\_ of RPR Trades, delivered a toolbox talk at  
\_\_\_\_\_ (client site) on **hazard identification**.

By signing below, you confirm that you were in attendance for this tool box meeting, were provided opportunity to discuss the topic, that you understand the discussion points and agree to comply with them.

Name	Signature