TITLE: 4547 DON’T BE A DUMMY ABOUT FORKLIFT SAFETY

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:
“You don’t really want to be a dummy about forklift safety.” Those simple words really explain the purpose of this program. This video discusses important concepts about forklift safety and the consequences of unsafe acts. Featured are workplace “dummies” who commit common safety errors that result in injury and property damage: driving forklifts erratically, not paying attention, showing off and taking unnecessary risks. These incidents drive home the point that safe forklift operators must have good safety attitudes and must exercise sound judgment. Topics include pre-operational inspection, responsible driving and operation, vehicle stability, unique handling characteristics, and traveling on sloped surfaces and using forklifts to reach elevated areas.

SHOOTING LOCATION: A variety of industrial sites: manufacturing, assembly, chemical processing facilities

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: After watching the program, the participant will be able to explain the following:
• The importance of the pre-operational inspection;
• The unique handling characteristics of a forklift;
• How to prevent tip-overs and what to do if one occurs;

INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT:
TRAINING & AUTHORIZATION
• Before operating any type of powered industrial truck, you must be fully trained and authorized.
• As a lift truck operator, you will receive hands-on training on the specific type of forklift you will operate.

PRE-OPERATIONAL INSPECTION
• The first step to operating a forklift safely is the pre-operational inspection. The purpose of this inspection is to ensure the proper operation of the vehicle.
• The pre-operational inspection must be done at least once a day. If the truck is used continuously, it should be inspected after each shift.
• Failing to conduct a complete inspection leaves the vehicle susceptible to a serious malfunction.

SAFE DRIVING PROCEDURES
• When approaching a blind intersection or doorway, stop and sound your horn to alert pedestrians and other lift truck operators of your presence.
• Keep a constant watch for pedestrians and other obstacles by scanning your path of travel. Make sure you always have a clear view.
• When going from areas of light to areas of dark, stop and give your eyes time to adjust before entering to make sure nothing is in your path.
• Each time you back up, look completely behind before moving to make sure the path is clear.
• Keep an eye out for pedestrians. Never allow them to pass under a raised load or between the lift truck and fixed objects such as a wall or bench.

UNIQUE HANDLING CHARACTERISTICS
• Lift truck operators must understand the unique handling characteristics of forklifts in order to operate them safely. Forklifts have very different braking, steering and tip-over characteristics compared to automobiles.
• These characteristics change depending on the weight of the load and the conditions of the work area.
• For example, the distance it takes to stop a lift truck increases when going down an incline, traveling over areas with poor traction or anytime the lift truck is carrying a load.
• Always operate the lift truck in a manner and speed that will allow it to be stopped safely. When you encounter conditions that reduce stopping distance, reduce your speed and increase your distance from edges and other objects.
• The steering characteristics of the lift truck are also different than that of an automobile.
• Lift trucks steer from the rear, which enables them to run around in tight quarters. This causes the rear of the truck to swing wide when turning.
THE STABILITY TRIANGLE
• Perhaps the most important characteristic of forklifts you must understand is its tendency to turn over under certain loading and operating conditions.
• Lift trucks have a zone of stability defined by three points of their suspension system. These points create the borders of what is known as the stability triangle.
• Under ideal conditions, the forklift’s counterweight combined with the weight of the load will focus the total weight of the loaded truck in a specific spot called the center of gravity.
• When the center of gravity is in the center of the stability triangle, the truck is very stable and will not tip over.

PREVENTING TIP-OVERS
• To help prevent tip-overs, reduce the speed of the truck before making any turn. Keep the load as low to the ground as possible.
• In addition, make sure the forklift has come to a complete stop before raising or lowering the load. Never raise or lower the load while moving.
• When crossing railroad tracks or similar obstacles, always proceed at an angle. This keeps two of the three points of contact on solid ground at all times, reducing the chances of a tip-over.
• When traveling on ramps and inclines, stay in the center of the ramp and don’t hug the edge.

RESPONDING TO TIP-OVERS
• If you are involved in a tip-over, your life may depend on taking the proper action.
• During the tip-over, do not attempt to jump from the truck. Many people are killed by the safety cage crushing their head or neck during the tip-over.
• The safest place to be when a truck tips over is inside the safety cage. As soon as you feel the truck tipping over, pull yourself tight against the steering wheel and lean in the opposite side of the turn over.
• By holding on tight and wearing your seatbelt, you can stay inside the protected area of the safety cage.

OTHER SAFE WORK PRACTICES
• Using a pallet or the forks of a lift truck as a lifting platform is highly dangerous and is not allowed at any time. Only an approved lifting cage with guardrails and the appropriate restraint devices may be used to raise personnel with a forklift.
• If someone requests you to make an unsafe lift, it is your responsibility to refuse.
• Under no circumstance are passengers allowed to ride on a forklift. Not only are there no seatbelts provided for passengers, but riders are also left vulnerable to being struck by falling loads or passing objects since they are outside the safety cage.