

**“Pedestrians and
forklifts do not
mix.”**



Your State Agency website:

Queensland: www.deir.qld.gov.au
Victoria: www.workcover.vic.gov.au
South Australia: www.workcover.com/
Tasmania: www.workcover.tas.gov.au/
Western Australia: www.workcover.wa.gov.au
New South Wales: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

***If you have any concerns
about forklift safety,
contact your union or
organiser immediately***



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Pedestrians & Forklifts



Fact Sheet



Fact Sheet: Pedestrians & Forklifts

“Almost half of all people injured by a forklift are pedestrians.”

Pedestrians and forklifts do not mix. Forklifts are one of the most dangerous pieces of equipment found in the workplace. Almost half of all people injured by a forklift are pedestrians. Simple measures can be put in place to separate foot and forklift traffic and help reduce injuries.

There are some obvious areas where forklift use should be examined, prohibited or minimised, such as around tea rooms, time clocks, cafeterias, amenities, entrances/exits, and other high pedestrian traffic areas.

Pedestrian Exclusion Zones

Pedestrian exclusion zones should be enforced within a three metre radius of a forklift. This distance should expand when the height of the forklift load or the speed travelled increases.

If a pedestrian is within three metres of a forklift, employers are required to justify this practice through risk assessment and suitable risk control measures.



“Don’t wait until a forklift-related death or injury takes place at your workplace before better separating forklift and pedestrian zones.”

Control Systems

Some control systems which could be implemented in

- Site traffic management system
- Pedestrian walkways / Signage erected where risk identified
- Vehicle warning systems
- Amenities, tea rooms, etc away from work areas
- Designated delivery area

Safety at intersections and blind corners can be enhanced by the addition of overhead dome mirrors, benefitting pedestrians and forklift operators. Avoid placing bins, racks or storage units that obstruct a forklift operator’s view at intersections or near corners.

Crushing is the most common form of forklift-related injury sustained by pedestrians. A medium sized forklift weighs about the same as your average dump truck—and can cause just as much damage and injury

The emergency stopping distance of a fully loaded forklift is often significantly underestimated when planning for pedestrian safety. Conversely, even when travelling at low speeds, forklifts present significant risk to the safety of pedestrians. Half the pedestrians killed in forklift accidents were crushed by forklifts that were barely moving.

Traffic Management Systems

Traffic Management Systems control the movement of plant and people. They can be applied to an entire site or just to specific work areas which have been identified as high risk.

When developing a Traffic Management System consider:

- Workplace layout and suitability
- Traffic volumes / destinations / prioritisation / flow (i.e. shared, one-way, divided, priority, “no go” areas)
- Identification of high risk “black spots”
- Separation (delineation of walkways and roadways, aisles, etc.)
- Signage, signalling
- Speed limitations

Pedestrian Walkways

Pedestrian walkways must be clearly marked. Installing physical barriers ensures walkways and workstations are separated from forklift and other vehicle travel areas.

Audio Warnings and Flashing Lights

Audio warnings are just as important as visual ones. The tone must be distinct and clearly audible in the working environment where there may be other sources of noise. Horns and reversing beepers coupled with flashing lights best warn pedestrians of approaching forklifts. It is important to choose the appropriate intensity and colour of the lights to ensure the mobile plant is seen. For example, an orange warning device would be highly visible inside a warehouse but less so in sunlight. Flashing lights are imperative in areas with high levels of workplace noise.

For detailed information on solutions to eliminate or reduce risk associated with forklifts in your workplace contact your government authority.

Source: WorkSafe Victoria



**FORESTRY & FURNISHING
PRODUCTS DIVISION**

Your Workplace Health & Safety Representative:

Name:

Phone:

Your Union Organiser:

Name:

Phone: