



POWERED INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – POWERED EQUIPMENT

August 2023

Powered industrial equipment, such as forklifts, cranes, and powered pallet jacks, play a vital role in various industries. However, their operation can be hazardous if not handled correctly. By following essential safety guidelines, we can ensure the safety of ourselves and our co-workers.

Key Points:

1. Training and Certification:

- Only trained and certified operators should operate powered industrial equipment.
- Participate in regular refresher training to stay up-to-date with safety procedures.



2. Pre-Operation Inspection:

- Perform a pre-operational inspection of the equipment before each use.
- Check for any signs of damage, leaks, or malfunctioning parts.
- Ensure the controls and safety features are working correctly.

3. Load Capacity:

- Never exceed the equipment's load capacity as indicated by the manufacturer.
- Distribute the load evenly and secure it properly before moving the equipment.

4. Operating Conditions:

- Only operate the equipment on designated surfaces and in well-lit areas.
- Be aware of any potential hazards, such as uneven floors or low overhead clearance.

5. Pedestrian Safety:

- Maintain a safe distance from pedestrians and other equipment.
- Use horns or warning signals when approaching blind spots or congested areas.

6. Speed and Braking:



- Always operate at a safe and controlled speed, especially when carrying a load.
 - Gradually apply the brakes and avoid abrupt stops whenever possible.
7. Seat Belts and Restraints:
- Always wear the seat belt or other safety restraints while operating the equipment.
 - Seat belts can prevent serious injuries in the event of a tip-over or collision.
8. Parking and Storage:
- Park the equipment in designated areas when not in use.
 - Engage parking brakes and lower forks or booms to the ground before leaving the equipment.
9. Refueling:
- Follow proper procedures for refueling accidents.
 - Keep a fire extinguisher nearby during refueling.
10. Communication:
- Maintain clear communication with co-workers and spotters while operating the equipment.
 - Use hand signals or two-way radios to coordinate movements safely.



Powered industrial equipment can significantly improve productivity, but it can also pose serious risks if not used responsibly. By following proper safety procedures, staying vigilant, and prioritizing communication, we can ensure a safer work environment for everyone. Remember, it's everyone's responsibility to uphold safety standards and prevent accidents. Always prioritize safety and make it a habit to follow these guidelines every time you operate powered industrial equipment. Stay safe and watch out for one another.