



Power Truck Safety

**Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission/
Health & Safety Division**

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Safe driving of powered industrial trucks leaves no room for the amateur. People who make their living behind the wheel know and practice safety. They know their jobs, their equipment, and their responsibilities—if not, they're soon out of work.

Let's look at some of the basic safety practices that separate the professional from the amateur.

The Professional.....

- ✓ Makes sure the truck is ready for a day's work. A complete check is made, and any malfunction or poor truck performance is brought to the supervisor's attention immediately.
- ✓ Makes sure the truck is given regular maintenance.
- ✓ Is serious when comes to refueling—never leaves the truck running, doesn't smoke, watches for spills and cleans them up.
- ✓ Backs down inclines—goes forward up inclines.
- ✓ Doesn't travel with the load elevated, keeps the load stable and as close to the floor as possible.
- ✓ Avoids raising or lowering a load while the truck is moving and always keeps the load tilted back towards the carriage while raising and lowering.
- ✓ Makes sure the load is balanced and is within the capacity of the truck.
- ✓ Keeps the truck forks spread as wide as possible.
- ✓ Never uses the forks as a personnel elevator unless properly equipped.
- ✓ Always makes sure the way is clear.
- ✓ Slows down for corners, blinds spots, and doorways.
- ✓ Drives defensively—always watching for the unexpected.
- ✓ Never tries to turn on an incline.
- ✓ Crosses tracks diagonally and slows down for uneven floors and surfaces.

- ✓ Keeps legs, arms, feet, hands, and head inside the truck.
- ✓ Stays out from under forks and loads.
- ✓ Never shows-off.
- ✓ Never gives anyone a ride.

Safety “by the seat of the pants” is not efficient. Powered industrial truck operators must learn and practice safe driving.

“Practice safety–don’t learn it through Accidental Experience.”

