

## Powered Industrial Trucks (PIT)



Most PIT injuries are caused by tip-over accidents.

The primary causes of tip-overs are

- 1. Excessive speed while turning**
- 2. Raised, unbalanced loads.**

The best way to avoid tip-overs is to properly counterbalance your load. All loads must be placed as close to the back of the forks as possible.

### General Forklift Safety Rules

- Keep the load low
- Never carry riders
- Plan your route
- Follow safe speed limits
- Park safely
- Watch for pedestrians
- Avoid sharp turns
- Watch for chuckholes
- Leave aisle room
- Maintain safe visibility
- Watch the slope of ground you are operating on
- Use your horn when approaching areas of activity

### Operator Training

All PIT operators **must be trained and certified in their safe operation every 3 years.**

The training includes both classroom and in person vehicle operation. The training covers:

- Features of the specific PIT to be operated
- Operating procedures of the specific PIT to be operated

- Safety concerns of specific PIT to be operated
- Workplace conditions and safety concerns of areas where PITs will be operated.
- Learn and practice actual operation of specific PITs to be operated.
- Demonstrate proficiency performing the PIT operator duties specific to the workplace.

### Operating a Powered Industrial Truck

Operating a PIT takes skill and knowledge.

Using proper operating procedures will minimize the potential for accidents and injuries.

Forklifts must be removed from service when they are not in safe operating condition.

PITs are required to be inspected before use (at least once per shift) and should include, but not be limited to: brakes, steering, forks, mast chain components, data plate, tires, counterweight, overhead guard, control levers, horn, lights, etc. Using an inspection checklist makes this task easier and thorough.

Be safe and follow all the rules of your company's Powered Industrial Truck safety program.

Resources:

[http://wisha-training.lni.wa.gov/training/articulate/forkliftsafety/story\\_html5.html](http://wisha-training.lni.wa.gov/training/articulate/forkliftsafety/story_html5.html)

[https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/chapter-pdfs/WAC296-863.pdf#WAC\\_296\\_863\\_099](https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/chapter-pdfs/WAC296-863.pdf#WAC_296_863_099)