

Tailgate talk

Today's Subject:

Pallet jacks

Date: _____

One of the reasons we use pallet jacks to transport loads is that they help reduce the chances of injuries. Ironically, however, the operation of a pallet jack can cause crushing injuries to the feet or other body parts if it's not done properly.

What to focus on

Here are three things to keep in mind in order to stay safe when operating a pallet jack.

1. Inspect the jack before using it. Always take a few moments to examine the pallet jack before operating it. Pay particular attention to the wheels, which should be replaced when they're worn out. Damaged or defective parts can cause the load to shift and fall.

2. Follow proper loading procedures. Don't operate a pallet jack if you don't know its maximum load capacity, which should be clearly marked on the equipment. Never exceed the maximum load rating.

3. Adhere to safe operating practices. Position the forks completely under the pallet. Center the forks evenly under the load to maintain good balance and ensure the stability of the load. Maintain a clearance of about 1 inch while moving the load. Key: The lower the load is to the ground, the more stable it'll be.