

OPERATING WITH PRECISION

THE REALITY OF FORKLIFT SAFETY

Moving from Compliance to Mastery in
Industrial Environments.

THE COST OF COMPLACENCY

Forklifts are the backbone of distribution, but they carry significant risk when handled without care.



67

FATALITIES

reported by the National Safety Council (NSC) in 2023.



40,000+

INCIDENTS

reported by MHEDA resulting in work restrictions or lost time.

Beyond the human cost, accidents result in millions of dollars in damage to materials, machinery, and facilities annually. Poor handling leads to production delays and workplace hazards.

THE 70% OPPORTUNITY

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70% of forklift accidents could be prevented with proper training and strict adherence to safety protocols.

OSHA mandates that all operators must be certified and undergo refresher training every three years. This isn't just red tape; it is the primary method of accident prevention.

**Accidents are not random;
they are preventable.**

ANATOMY OF AN ACCIDENT

Common drivers of injury and property damage.



TIP-OVERS

Caused by excessive speed, uneven surfaces, or improper load balancing.



COLLISIONS

Occur due to poor visibility, congested workspaces, or failure to follow traffic rules.



FALLS

Result from workers riding improperly or standing on forks during lifting operations.



MECHANICAL FAILURES

Caused by lack of routine inspections (brakes, hydraulics, steering).



MATERIAL DAMAGE

Resulting from rough handling, improper loading, or neglecting weight limits.

BEST PRACTICE 01: PRE-SHIFT MASTERY

Safety starts before the engine starts.

Conduct a daily safety check before every shift to ensure operational readiness.

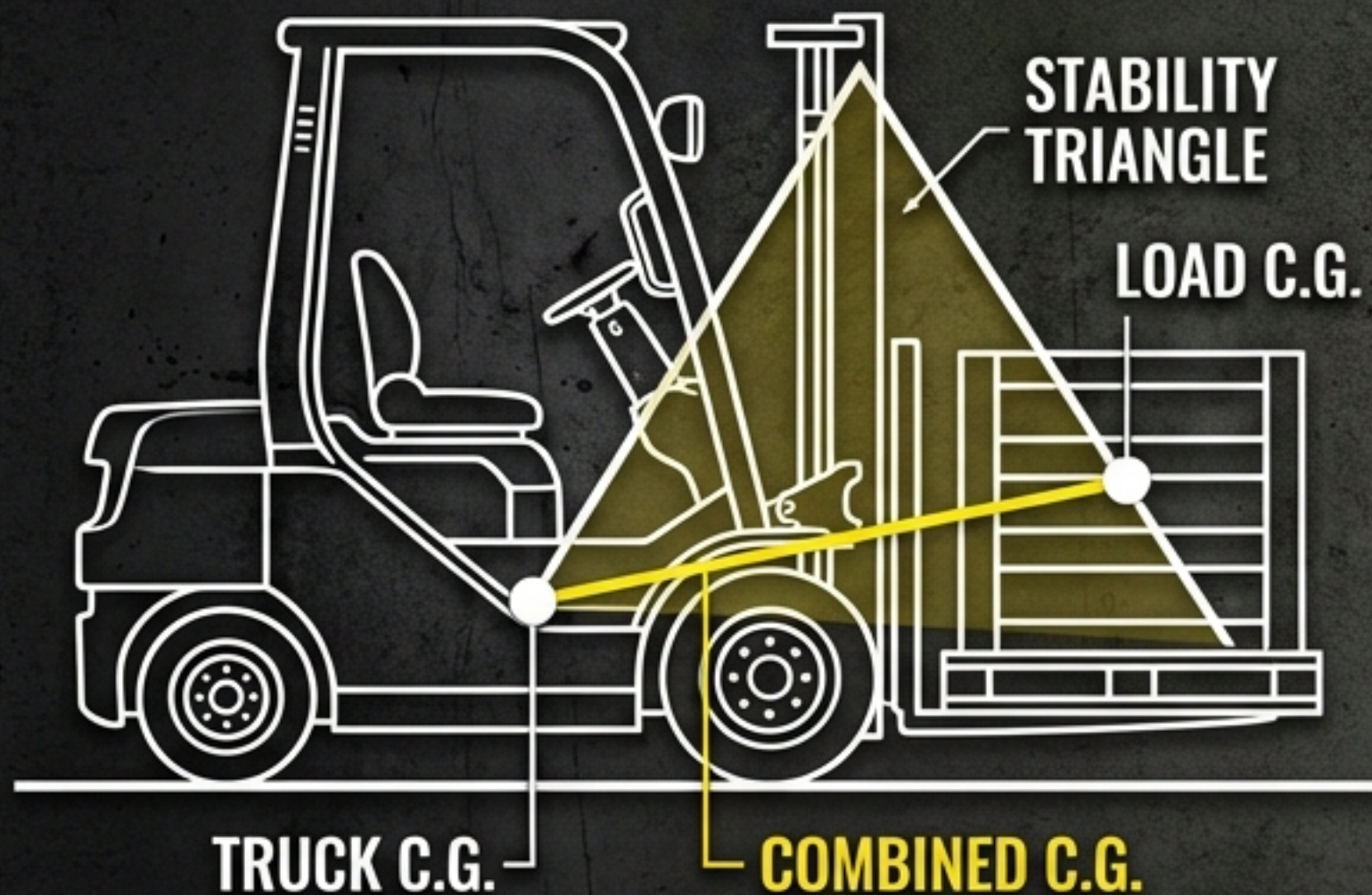
DAILY OPERATIONAL CHECKLIST

- ✓ **MECHANICS**
Brakes, steering, and hydraulics must be fully functional.
- ✓ **TIRES**
Must be properly inflated and free of damage.
- ✓ **ALERTS**
Horn and lights must be operational for visibility and communication.

APPROVED

BEST PRACTICE 02: LOAD DYNAMICS

Respecting weight limits and gravity.



01

POSITION



Always center the load. Keep forks low to the ground while moving to maintain stability.

02

CAPACITY



Never exceed the forklift's weight limit. Overloading is a primary cause of tip-overs.

03

INSPECTION



Check load capacity before lifting. Neglecting limits leads to damaged inventory and lost revenue.

BEST PRACTICE 03: DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Maintaining situational awareness in dynamic environments.

SPEED & MOTION

Operate at safe speeds. Avoid sudden stops or sharp turns that compromise stability.



VISIBILITY

Use mirrors and spotters when necessary. If visibility is blocked, do not proceed without assistance.



THE HUMAN ELEMENT

Keep a safe distance from pedestrians and other vehicles.



ZERO TOLERANCE

Never allow unauthorized riders. Forklifts are designed for one operator only.



BEST PRACTICE 04: CERTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE

The standard of a professional operator.

01 INITIAL TRAINING

OSHA requires formal training and certification for all forklift operators.

02 3-YEAR REFRESHER

Refresher courses must be conducted every three years.

03 TRIGGER EVENTS

Immediate retraining is required after any accident or near-miss.

SUPERVISION: Supervisors are tasked with monitoring usage to ensure ongoing compliance with safety protocols.

BEST PRACTICE 05: PRESERVING THE FACILITY

Preventing structural and equipment damage through spatial awareness.



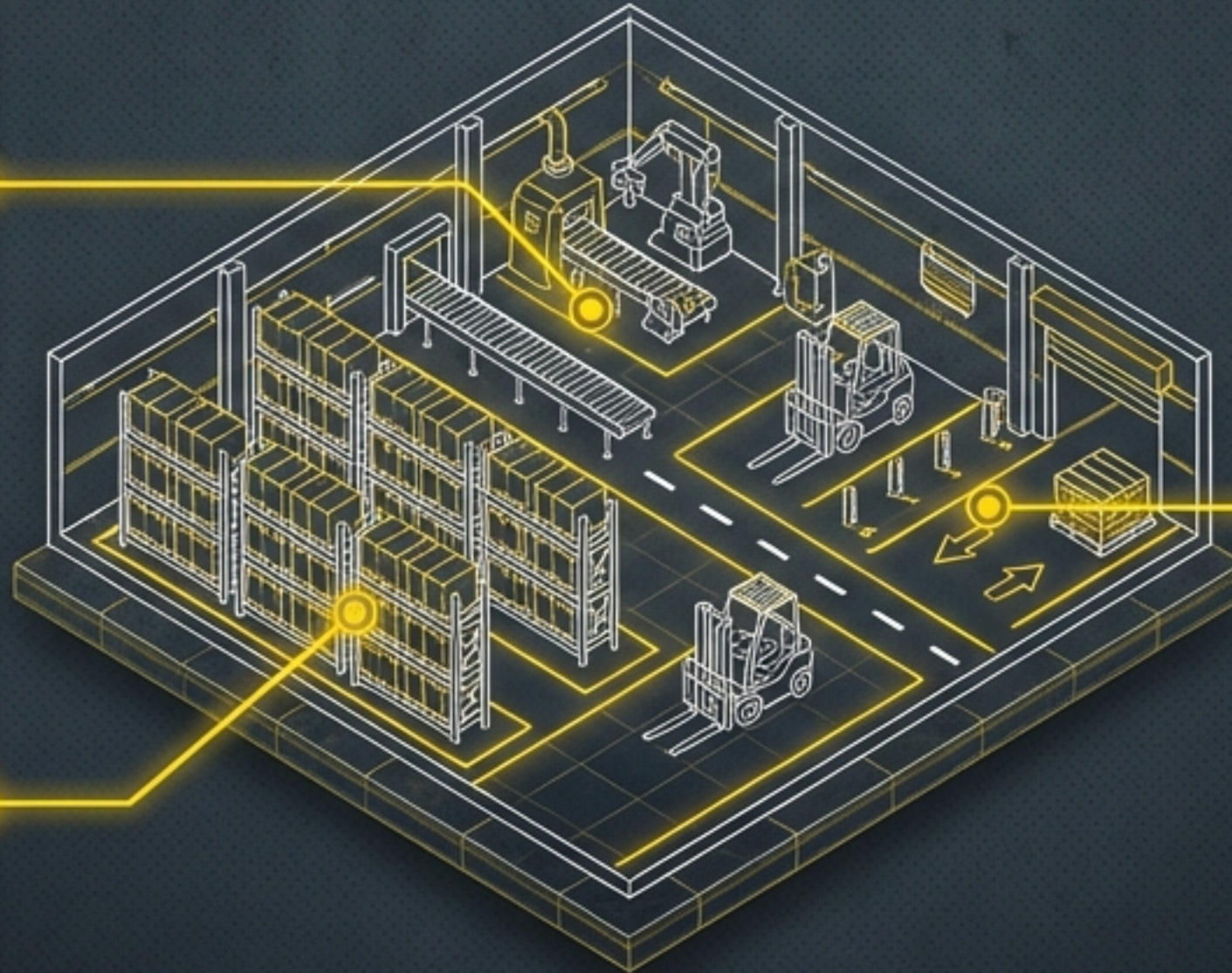
MACHINERY

Maintain control near production machinery; accidental bumps can misalign sensitive equipment.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Avoid striking warehouse racks and shelving to prevent collapses. Navigate carefully near dock doors to avoid expensive repairs.



HANDLING & TRAFFIC

Use pallets and secure straps to stabilize irregular loads. Keep fork spacing even. Respect designated routes to reduce congestion.

BEST PRACTICE 06: EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Protocol for critical failures and accidents.

01



SHUTDOWN

Know the location of emergency shut-offs in case of mechanical failure.

02



REPORT

Report all incidents—regardless of severity—immediately to supervisors for investigation.

03



MEDICAL

Use proper first aid procedures for injuries, specifically:
Burns, Fractures, and Crush injuries.

THE 6 PILLARS OF SAFETY

01 INSPECT DAILY

Brakes, lights, and tires.

02 RESPECT LIMITS

Center loads and never overload.

03 DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

Manage speed and watch for pedestrians.

04 STAY CERTIFIED

Train every three years.

05 PROTECT THE SPACE

Watch for racks and machinery.

06 RESPOND QUICKLY

Know the shut-offs and reporting lines.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Forklift safety is not just about compliance—it's about protecting lives. By implementing proper training, routine inspections, and safe operating procedures, we minimize risk and create a secure environment for every employee.

YOUR TRUSTED RESOURCE FOR MANUFACTURING PROFESSIONALS.