

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

Recently in Northwest Ohio, a worker on a construction site was transporting a large wood truss using a rough terrain forklift. The truss was suspended by a wire rope sling choked and hung from the forks of the lift. While in transit, the truss began to swing from left to right and consequently pulled the rough terrain forklift over onto its side. The truss was “supported” by a tag line being handled by an employee. The lift crashed to the ground on top of a large gondola dumpster and the boom crushed a port-o-let approximately one foot, while an employee was inside. The operator of the lift was not injured in the accident, nor was the employee in the port-o-let. OSHA was notified of the incident via a complaint / referral and a subsequent inspection of the accident occurred.

During the investigation by OSHA, the rough terrain forklift manufacturer was questioned about this action. The manufacturer said that it clearly prohibits transporting of objects via suspended means. OSHA is assuredly questioning the operators training due to the fact that speed and rough terrain combined are operator errors. Also, the fact that a manufacturer prohibits transporting objects by suspended means is a conflict with the lift operations manual and is again the responsibility of the operator.

Operators must be trained and must be aware of what the manufacturer says is applicable use of their equipment. This is clearly a citable item under the OSHA standards for a trained operator and following what the manufacturer says for safe usage. Operators must also be aware of their driving terrain and how to properly carry, transport and secure loads. Speeds, machine leveling, rigging, terrain, driving characteristics are all part of a trained operator. Please make certain that your employees are trained to operate a rough terrain forklift as this is different from a forklift training card. These lifts operate differently from a normal forklift.



This forklift has front outriggers down while picking which is great and how it should be. When traveling, this load is suspended by slings and allows sideways movement to occur. This action of traveling with suspended loads is prohibited by several lift manufacturers. Tip over can occur. This photo shows a forklift as only an example. Consult with your forklift manufacturer for their specific requirements.