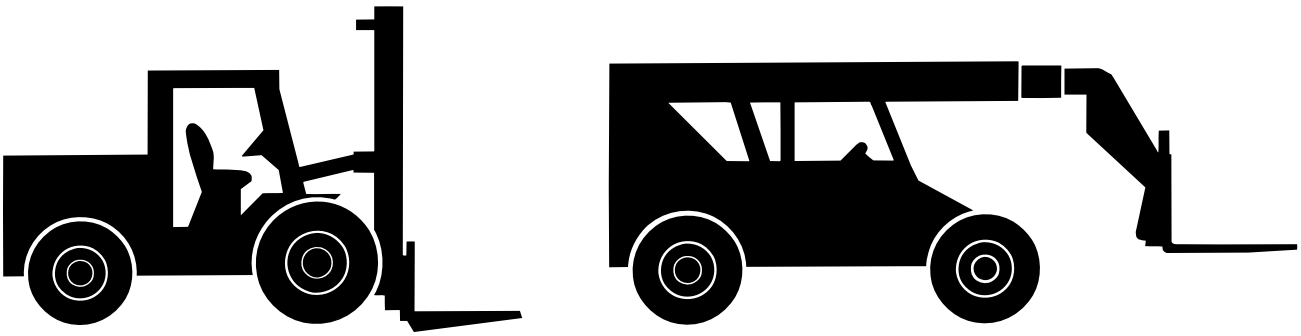
Task Training Supplement:

Lifting and Placing the Load Safely with Rough Terrain Forklift Trucks

Excerpted from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) *Rough Terrain Forklift Trucks Safety Manual For Operating and Maintenance Personnel,* FORM RTF-0907



The information provided in this publication supplements the specific information about your machine that is contained in the manufacturer's manual(s). Before you operate the machine, make sure you have the manufacturer's manual(s) for this machine and all attachments. If the manufacturer's manuals are missing, obtain replacement manuals from your employer, equipment dealer or directly from the manufacturer. Read and understand all manuals.

This publication is another in a series of the safe operation of machinery published by AEM. For additional publications, visit our website at **www.safetymaterials.org**.

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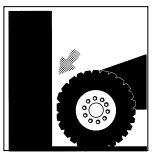
Operate Safely

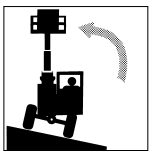
Lifting And Placing The Load

Now that the load has been transported to the location where it is to be placed, remember:

— Be sure the landing point can safely support the weight of the load.
— The chosen landing location should be level, both front to back and side to side.
— While lifting or lowering always make sure the path of the forks or load is clear of obstacles.
— Approach the landing location slowly with the load as low as possible.
— Drive as close as possible to the landing location.
— Avoid a sudden stop.
— Place the truck in neutral.
— Set the parking brake.
— Level the rough terrain forklift truck from side to side if the machine has this feature.
— If the truck is equipped with outriggers or stabilizers, lower them to stabilize the lift.
— Center the forks and carriage before lifting the load on machines equipped with side shift, side tilt or swing carriage features.

WARNING! Avoid tipover. If the rough terrain forklift truck cannot be leveled so the load is level before lifting, reposition the machine. The likelihood for tipover is greatly increased if the load is not level before lifting.





Operate Safely

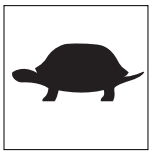
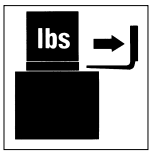
Some important practices should be followed while lifting loads:

— Start lifting the load slowly and smoothly. Lift speeds can be increased once the load has started moving and appears to be stable.

WARNING! Avoid death or serious injury from loss of load or machine upset. **If the load leans or moves during the lift, immediately lower the load and adjust the load so it is stable during the lift.**

— When the load approaches a height that is higher than the landing point, the lift speed should be reduced.

WARNING! Avoid death or serious injury from loss of load or machine upset. **Do not allow the lift cylinders to hit the end of their stroke as the jolt may cause loss of the load or machine upset.**

— Once above the landing point, the carriage can be tilted or lowered to place the load.
— Lower the load gently until the weight of the load is securely resting on the landing point and the forks are free to be retracted from under the load.

WARNING! Avoid death or serious injury from loss of load or machine upset. Before retracting the forks, check landing point for excessive bowing, cracking noises or other indications of overloading. **If there is any indication that the landing point cannot support the load, pick the load up and lower it to the ground.**