



September 8 — Know Your Load Chart

Employee was operating a fork lift and tried to extend boom out which caused the rear tires to leave the ground slightly.

Stopped them and had them review the load chart on lift. Also explained that while lifting heavy loads you should stay as close as you can to the load at all times.

Keep the Load Close and Stay Within the Limits

An employee was operating a forklift and attempted to extend the boom while handling a load. As the boom was extended, the rear tires of the forklift began to lift slightly off the ground.

The operation was stopped before the situation became more serious. The employee reviewed the load chart for the lift, and the importance of keeping heavy loads as close to the machine as possible was discussed.

Extending a boom changes the way the weight of the load affects the equipment. As the load moves farther away from the machine, stability can be affected. The load chart provides important information about what the equipment can safely handle based on the configuration and position of the load.

Before making a lift or extending a boom, know the limits of the equipment and stay within them.

Hazards

- Loss of equipment stability
- Rear tires lifting off the ground
- Tip-over potential
- Dropped or shifted loads
- Exceeding the equipment's rated capacity
- Serious injury to the operator or nearby employees

Words of Wisdom

Equipment has limits for a reason. Know what your machine can safely handle before you reach, lift, or extend farther.

Pause and Think

- Do you know where to find the load chart on the equipment you operate?
- What happens to stability when you extend a boom?
- Are you keeping heavy loads as close to the machine as possible?
- What should you do if the equipment begins to feel unstable?
- Have you reviewed the load chart before handling an unfamiliar load?

Closing Thought

Know the limits of your equipment before you test them. Keep the load close, follow the load chart, and never sacrifice stability to gain reach.