



July 16 — If You Can't See, Don't Move

Employee was operating a forklift with limited sight; spotter should've been in position and wasn't. The operator failed to see the side of another piece of equipment and caused minor damage.	Operator got off. Took a moment and allowed another operator to continue moving parts to continue.
---	--

Just because the forklift can move...

...doesn't mean it's safe to do so.

While transporting a load with limited visibility, a forklift operator continued moving even though a spotter was not in position. Without a clear view of the travel path, the operator failed to see another piece of equipment and made contact, resulting in minor damage.

Fortunately, the incident only damaged equipment. If a coworker had been in the blind spot, the outcome could have been much more serious.

Every forklift has blind spots, and every operator will eventually encounter a load that blocks their view. That's exactly why spotters exist. Their job isn't simply to direct traffic—it's to provide the visibility the operator doesn't have.

When visibility is limited, stopping to get a spotter isn't slowing the job down—it's preventing an incident.

Hazards

- Limited visibility
- Struck by hazards
- Blind spots
- Property damage
- Pedestrian exposure
- Failure to use a spotter

Words of Wisdom

If you can't clearly see where you're going, you shouldn't keep moving. A few moments spent positioning a spotter is far better than dealing with the consequences of guessing what's ahead.

Pause and Think

- What situations make it difficult to see while operating mobile equipment?
- When should a spotter be used?
- Have you ever felt tempted to "just ease forward" even though you couldn't see clearly?
- What responsibilities do both the operator and the spotter have before equipment starts moving?
- How can better communication between operators and spotters prevent incidents?

Closing Thought

Blind spots don't cause incidents—moving without knowing what's in them does. When visibility is limited, stop, get a spotter, and make sure every move is a safe one.