



July 2 – The Shortcut Isn't Shorter

Another contractor was riding on the forks of their forklift while it was moving!!

Told them to knock off the horse play before they get hurt!!

Unsafe shortcuts often start with one simple thought...

"It'll only take a second."

A contractor was observed riding on the forks of a moving forklift instead of using the proper equipment to access the work area. While it may have seemed like a quick way to get from one place to another, the risk was significant.

Forklifts are designed to move materials not transport people. A sudden stop, uneven ground, a sharp turn, or an unexpected movement could easily cause someone to fall from the forks or become caught between the forklift and another object.

Many serious incidents happen because people become comfortable taking shortcuts that "have always worked before." Over time, those shortcuts begin to feel normal, even though the hazard never changes.

Taking a few extra minutes to get the right equipment is always a better choice than risking a life-changing injury.

Hazards

- Fall from elevation
- Crushing or caught between hazards
- Unexpected forklift movement
- Improper use of equipment
- Normalization of unsafe shortcuts

Words of Wisdom

The safest way is not always the fastest way—but it's always the right way. Equipment should only be used for the purpose it was designed for.

Pause and Think

- Have you ever seen someone use equipment for something it wasn't designed to do?
- Why do shortcuts sometimes become accepted as "normal" on a job site?
- What could happen if the forklift hit a bump or stopped suddenly?
- What equipment should be used instead of riding on forklift forks?
- How would you address a coworker or contractor if you observed this behavior?

Closing Thought

Shortcuts save seconds—but they can cost someone a lifetime. Choose the right equipment every time.