



May 14 — In the Way

<p>Someone drank a beverage in the forklift and did not dispose of the trash. When I used the forklift, the bottle rolled and ended up almost under the brake pedals, which could have caused an accident.</p>	<p>Keep the vehicles clean</p>
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It wasn't part of the task. Just a bottle. Something left in the cab. Something that didn't seem like a big deal. Until it moved. Forklifts don't stay perfectly still while operating. They bounce. They shift. They carry load.

And anything loose inside moves with them. The bottle rolled. And it ended up where it shouldn't be near the brake pedal. Now the operator doesn't just have to control the machine. He has to deal with something interfering with that control.

And when you need the brake, you don't get extra time to fix it. You hit it. Or you don't. There's no adjustment in that moment. Nothing happened this time. But if the brake is blocked, delayed, or limited the outcome changes fast. This wasn't about how the forklift was operated.

It was about what was left inside it before the job even started.

Hazards

- Obstruction of brakes or controls
- Delayed stopping distance
- Loss of control of mobile equipment
- Struck by or collision hazard
- Line of fire exposure to motion

Stats

- Mobile equipment incidents often involve loss of control
- Obstructions in operator areas are a well-known contributing factor
- Many equipment-related incidents occur during normal operation
- Housekeeping directly impacts equipment safety

Words of Wisdom

- Control the cab before you control the machine
- Small things become big problems fast
- If it can move, it can get in the way

Pause and Think

It's easy to overlook what's inside the cab.

A bottle. A tool. Something small that gets left behind.

It doesn't seem like a hazard sitting still.

But once the equipment starts moving, everything inside moves too.

And when it ends up in the wrong place, it doesn't give you time to react.

- Is my cab clear before I start operating?
- Am I thinking about what could move during operation?
- Do I treat housekeeping as part of equipment safety?
- Would I catch this before it becomes a problem?