



October 1 — Don't Ignore the Warning Signs

Employee stated lift was stalling out. Asked had they checked fluids and stopped them from using the lift.

Inspected lift with them and a very faint display screen showed low coolant. Had them get the rental company to add fluid to the lift. Talked about thorough inspections.

A Problem Is a Warning, Not an Inconvenience

An employee reported that the lift was stalling out. Instead of continuing to use it and hoping the problem would go away, the lift was stopped and the condition was investigated.

During the inspection, a very faint display on the lift showed low coolant. The rental company was contacted and added fluid to the lift before the equipment was put back into service.

The important lesson is that equipment doesn't always give us a big, obvious warning when something is wrong. Sometimes the first indication is something as simple as a machine not operating the way it normally does. A lift that starts stalling is telling us that something needs attention.

A thorough inspection means more than walking around the equipment and checking the obvious items. We need to pay attention to how the equipment is operating, look for signs that something isn't right, and investigate concerns before continuing to use it.

When someone says, "Something isn't working right," that's information we need to take seriously. Stopping to investigate a problem may take a few extra minutes, but continuing to operate equipment with an unknown problem can create a much bigger issue.

Hazards

- Equipment malfunction during use
- Failure to identify a developing equipment problem
- Incomplete or rushed equipment inspections
- Operating equipment with an unresolved condition
- Missing or overlooking warning indicators
- Equipment damage or unexpected downtime

Words of Wisdom

The equipment doesn't have to fail completely before we pay attention. When something doesn't operate the way it should, stop, investigate the warning signs, and make sure the problem is addressed before putting it back to work.

Pause and Think

- If the equipment isn't operating normally, would you stop and investigate or keep working?
- Do you know what warning indicators to look for on the equipment you operate?
- Are you paying attention to how the equipment is actually performing, not just how it looks during an inspection?
- If you find something you don't understand, who should you contact before continuing?
- Could taking a few extra minutes to investigate a problem prevent a larger equipment issue?

Closing Thought

A machine doesn't have to quit completely to tell us something is wrong. Pay attention to the warning signs, stop when something doesn't seem right, and take the time to find out why.