POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS are potentially hazardous vehicles used in material handling. The two main types found at the University are forklifts and motorized pallet jacks in industrial storage and loading dock areas. Forklifts are operated from a seated position within the cab, while motorized pallet jacks have no cab and are operated from behind. Unsafe handling can lead to serious injury or death to the driver or pedestrians in the vicinity. Safe operation relies heavily on the driver’s handling and ability to quickly identify potential hazards in the workplace. The UO requires a three part training prior to use including: a class room training, hands-on training, and evaluation.

EXAMPLE POTENTIAL HAZARDS:
- Atmospheres containing flammable gases or high levels of combustible dust
- Collisions with pedestrians or objects
- Obstructed or narrow pathways
- Tipping from improper maneuvering, impact, or driving

WHAT TO DO!
- Receive training prior to use!
- Conduct a pre-use inspection before operating.
- Do not engage in horse play! Pay attention to the area!
- Park out of pathways, place in neutral, remove the keys, and mark the fork.
- Avoid tipping by traveling slow, keeping the load lowered, and stopping before turning or backing up.
- Keep a safe distance from all dock edges.
- Always follow the manufacturer’s manual.
- For training contact mobile equipment at 541-346-2300.
- Bring questions to your supervisor!
- Direct additional questions or concerns to EHS.
- In an emergency, call 911 and UOPD (541-346-2919) for immediate assistance!