



KEEP SAFE

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Powered industrial trucks (forklifts) lead utilities' top 10 violations

OSHA violations in the utilities sector are drawn from a wide swath of general industry regulations under OSHA standard 1910, highlighting that many utilities subsectors engage in diverse and related activities.

Occupations in this sector are reported via the Standard Industrial Classification system's Division E: Transportation, Communications, Electric, Gas and Sanitary Services. Excluded from the sector are related utilities activities such as waste management services and pipeline transportation of natural gas and other petroleum products.

OSHA's standard governing hazards from powered industrial trucks — forklifts, tractors, platform lift trucks and motorized hand trucks — is the utilities sector's most cited violation. A total of 461 violations were cited during fiscal year 2007.

Powered industrial trucks are powered by electric motors or internal combustion engines. The category does not include compressed air or nonflammable compressed gas-operated industrial trucks, farm vehicles, or vehicles intended primarily for earth moving or over-the-road hauling. Under the standard, employers are required to provide powered industrial truck operators with a combination of formal instruction and practical training. Employers also are required to evaluate the operator's performance and competence in the use of powered industrial trucks in the workplace.

The Powered Industrial Trucks standard (1910.178) ranked No. 6 among OSHA violations issued for all industries in FY2007, with 3,478 citations.

In FY 2007, 366 violations of OSHA's Hazard Communication standard (1910.1200) were cited in the utilities sector. The Hazard Communication standard requires

employers to provide appropriate protective measures to address chemical hazards in the workplace. The standard also stipulates how chemical hazards should be communicated to workers, including developing and maintaining a written hazard communication program.

Top 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards — utilities

Fiscal year 2007

STANDARD	TOTAL VIOLATIONS
1. Powered Industrial Trucks (Forklifts) (1910.178)	461
2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200)	366
3. Electrical – Wiring Methods (1910.305)	287
4. Electrical – General Requirements (1910.303)	229
5. Maintenance, Safeguards & Operation Features for Exit Routes (1910.37)	174
6. Personal Protective Equipment (1910.132)	159
7. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147)	157
8. Portable Fire Extinguishers (1910.157)	148
9. Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes (1910.23)	142
10. Respiratory Protection (1910.134)	140

Source: OSHA

(Top 10 Violations continued on page 2)

(Top 10 Violations continued from page 1)

Violations of this standard also were among the most cited in general industry, with 4,966.

One violation that does not appear in Top 10 rankings for general industry but ranks fifth in the utilities sector is the OSHA standard governing the use of exit routes. Standard 1910.37 specifies that exit routes must be unobstructed. The standard further specifies that locked rooms such as restrooms cannot be part of a designated exit route, and that exit routes must be sufficiently lighted and marked.

Standard 1910.157, which governs the use of portable fire extinguishers, ranks No. 8 in the utilities sector but does not appear among OSHA's Top 10 violations in the broader general industry group.

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The back seat is the safest seat for all children

➤ Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 5 to 15 years of age. A study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration concluded children are safer riding in the back seat.

➤ Air bags are lifesaving devices, but special precautions must be taken when driving children in air bag-equipped vehicles. Children risk injury if they are unbelted, improperly belted or otherwise too close to the dashboard when an air bag inflates. To play it safe, always buckle children in the back seat.

➤ If the vehicle does not have a back seat, move the front seat as far back as possible from the dashboard and make sure the child is buckled properly in the appropriate restraint for their height and weight.

➤ NEVER place rear-facing infant safety seats in the front seat of a vehicle with a front passenger-side air bag. The back of the safety seat in this position is too close to the inflating air bag and the infant could be killed or seriously injured.

— Ohio Department of Public Safety

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Upcoming Loss Control Schools

Underground School (Gonzales)	June 9 - 13
Transformer School (Livingston)	June 24 - 27
Troubleshooting School (Greenville)	July 8 - 11
Regulator, Recloser, Capacitor (Merkel)	July 29-August 1
Hotline 1 - 4 School - (Merkel)	August 11 - 15
Metering School - (Livingston)	August 19 - 22
Hotline 1 - 4 School, plus Hotline Stringing with Hotline 4 - (Gonzales)	September 8 - 12
Underground School - (McGregor)	September 22 - 26

Beware of disease carrying ticks

It's tick season in many regions of the United States. As you head to the great outdoors, remember that ticks can settle onto your skin. If a tick remains attached for several hours or more, it may infect you with a bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Lyme disease symptoms — fever, nausea, aches and pain — mimic the flu and are often misdiagnosed.

To help avoid Lyme disease, follow these steps:

➤ When hiking outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and white or light clothing to easily see the pinhead-sized ticks.

➤ Tuck your pants into long socks.

➤ After your return from wooded areas, check your clothing, exposed skin, and your hair for tiny ticks.

➤ Remove ticks by pulling them with tweezers. If you remove them within 24 hours, you may prevent transmission of the disease.

Ticks also transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever a potentially deadly bacterial illness. Symptoms are similar to Lyme disease but with a rash that begins at the extremities and moves toward the trunk.

If you think you've contracted Lyme disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, contact your physician.