
AGRICULTURAL SAFETY TOPICS

HAND PALLET TRUCKS

Objective:

To be able to safely use hand pallet trucks in the work place.

Background:

Moving materials with a hand pallet truck may seem easy, but safe handling requires skill.

- Raise the forks by pushing the actuating lever down and pumping the handle. This is the only time the handle should be down – to jack the pallet. A one inch clearance between the floor and pallet is usually sufficient.
- Put the actuating lever in a neutral or middle position to move the load. This position disengages the lifting mechanism and frees the handle from hydraulic resistance, but keeps the forks raised. When the lever is released, it will automatically return to the neutral position.

For Safe Operation:

- Avoid moving loads up or down ramps.
- Do not carry riders on the truck.
- Center the forks evenly under the load to maintain good balance.
- Avoid overloading the truck.
- Ensure the stability of the load.
- Use both forks for lifting a load.
- Pull rather than push loads for increased maneuverability.
- Maneuvering loads using the neutral position reduces operator fatigue.
- Operate at a controllable speed, since hand pallet trucks do not have brakes.
- Park the pallet truck out of traffic areas in a safe level place with the forks lowered.
- The handle should be left in the up position to eliminate tripping hazards.

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Review the Following Points:

- Maneuvering loads in the neutral position reduces operator fatigue.
- Keep pallet trucks out of traffic areas when forks are lowered.
- Never use one fork to lift a load.
- No riders on the pallet truck.

Based upon: Ohio State University Extension. *Hand Pallet Trucks*. Retrieved from website <http://ohioline.osu.edu/atts/modules.html>

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Revised: November 2014