

MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT/FORKLIFT SAFETY

Oil and gas drilling requires the use of various types of downhole piping and other tools to get to the point where the extraction of product can be done effectively. The drill pipe, drill collars, drill bits, downhole motors, logging while drilling tools, and fishing tools, all are too heavy to move manually, and a hoist must be used to safely lift the load. Drill rigs usually have a friction cathead winch and one or more air hoists to lift these loads.

In addition to the winches and hoists on the rig, forklifts are often used to move materials and equipment around on the drill pad.

Where Are the Regulations?

OSHA has developed rules governing materials handling. These rules are found at 29 CFR 1910.176 through .184 in Subpart N. Your employer must train you to safely operate materials handling equipment. When hoist and crane safety is involved, strict inspection, maintenance, and operating procedures must be followed.



OSHA's 29 CFR 1910.178 powered industrial truck standard regulates forklifts, including rough terrain forklifts often used on oil and gas drilling sites.

What You Need to Know About Material Handling

- Only operate material handling equipment if trained.