



## Monthly Safety Tip

### Pallet Jack Safety

Pallet Jacks are handy tools found at many businesses. Although very essential to day to day operations, they can be dangerously deceiving. They have caused many injuries such as back strains, Crushed toes, and scraped knuckles. Following are some good tips in using, storing and maintaining your pallet jacks. Follow Forklift guidelines for electric pallet jacks.

#### Proper PPE

Employees who use pallet jacks will need to recognize and wear the proper PPE that should include:

- Safety-toed footwear to prevent foot injuries caused by being run over by the wheels of pallet jack, hit by falling materials and by stubbing toe on pallets
- Gloves to reduce the risk of cuts, bruises and blisters.
- Consider safety glasses as well. Operator could be hit by pallet strapping and possible exposure to chemicals from pallet.

#### Pallet Jack Maintenance

- Periodic check of the solid rubber wheels. Badly worn or chipped rubber could make the load difficult and unstable to push/pull.
- Make sure they are greased properly. This will make the load stress on operator much less.

#### Handling Guidelines

- If your view is obstructed, have a co-worker guide the load'
- Be aware of pinch point hazards to your hands
- Never place your feet under a pallet jack
- Check the floor for bumps, holes or any imperfection.
- Never exceed a pallet jack's load capacity.
- When going down an incline, push, **do not pull.**
- **Stay in correct traffic lanes, and be alert especially at corners.**
- **Use proper lifting techniques when loading and unloading.**

#### Recommendations:

- Never pull or push pallet jacks any faster than you are able to control it or be able to stop it.
- Pallets are for Loads not passengers.
- Be courteous to foot traffic. If you are turning a corner make yourself known that you are there by making a noise.



#### Pallet Maintenance

- Making sure all pallets are not broken or missing boards will ensure the loads stay stable and safe.
- This might sound trivial but the consequences could be costly.

#### Store Properly

- Careful attention to proper storage will be very important to prevent a tripping hazard.
- Never block emergency exits or electrical panels.

**Call your ERNWEST Loss Control Manager for additional help**