

Crown

Lift truck Battery Dangers

Electric lift trucks are the main choice by a lot of supply outlets or warehouses which need to move equipment and heavy items into and out of storage. These battery-powered machinery are able to quietly run on big batteries and are capable of lifting heavy cargo. Usually, warehouse employees are responsible for swapping out the batteries or recharging them during a shift. Though these batteries have been designed and developed with safety at the forefront, there are still several problems a handler should be aware of and things to be prevented when in the vicinity of the batteries.

Weight

Depending on the type, several forklift batteries can weigh as much as 2000 lbs. or 1 ton, even more. Clearly, these extreme weight factors require mechanical assistance in order to safely charge and change the battery. About 50% of all injuries related to lift truck batteries are caused by improper lifting and moving these heavy pieces of machinery. At times jacks, specialized carts, or even other forklifts are used in order to move and transport heavy batteries. The overall success of using these pieces of machinery would really depend on how securely the handler affixes the battery to the cart. Unfortunately, serious injuries can happen due to falling batteries.

The industry has strict protocols that describe how and when the forklift battery would be charged. Nearly all companies have extensive regulations and rules describing the safest method to remove the forklift battery in an efficient and safe way.

Corrosives

It is important to know that forklift batteries are filled with corrosive liquids that require proper safety measures followed in order to handle them. Two of the most common lift truck battery kinds include potassium hydroxide and sulfuric acid. These are both extremely corrosive materials which can result in chemical burns to the skin, hands, face and eyes.