

In order for an injury/incident to occur, both a worker and an unsafe condition have to be present. Remove either one, and there is no incident. Inspections are performed to determine if workplace conditions and worker behavior is compliant with regulations, standards and good practices. The National Safety Council (NSC) Accident Prevention Manual defines inspections as activities designed “to locate and repair existing and potential unsafe conditions or activities.” To accomplish these inspections, checklists should be used to help ensure nothing is overlooked.

Many of our operations have associated checklists that must be completed. All equipment should be inspected before use. Below is a list of some of the required inspections. Operators must be trained on the proper use of equipment, including tools, machines, ladders and PPE prior to use.

- **Aerial Lifts**
 - Before each shift, follow the manufacturer’s recommendations and include a check of:
 - Vehicle components (fluid levels, wheels/tires, battery, controls, warning systems, etc.)
 - Lift components (operating controls, hydraulic, air, pneumatic, fuel and electrical systems, fasteners and locking pins, cables, etc.)
 - There are lift-specific checklists available in the Toolroom.

- **Powered Industrial Trucks**
 - OSHA requires that all forklifts be examined at least daily before being placed in service. The operator should conduct a pre-start visual check with the key off and then perform an operational check with the engine running. The forklift should not be placed in service if the examinations show that the vehicle may not be safe to operate.
 - Lift-specific checklists should be available in the manual of each lift truck. The manual must be located on the lift truck at all times. The completed daily inspection sheets must be maintained.

- **Overhead Cranes, Gantry Cranes and Hoists**
 - Overhead crane inspections are divided into two general classifications: Frequent Inspections and Periodic Inspections. Inspection checklists are completed as part of the inspection process. Inspection checklists shall be available for inspection.
 - On a daily basis, the operator of the crane should inspect:
 - All functional operating mechanisms for maladjustment interfering with proper operation.

- Deterioration or leakage in lines, tanks, valves, drain pumps, and other parts of air or hydraulic systems.
- Hooks with deformation or cracks.
- Hoist chains, including end connections, for excessive wear, twist, distorted links interfering with proper function, or stretch beyond manufacturer's recommendations.

Remember, we're trying "*to locate and repair existing and potential unsafe conditions or activities*" to prevent an incident or injury from occurring. Take care of all your equipment and it will take care of you.