

Rough Terrain Forklift Safety - Part 2: Operation

Improperly prepared and operated rough terrain forklifts can result in collisions, tipping and losing loads.

Starting the Rough Terrain Forklift

Before starting the rough terrain forklift shift to neutral, set the brakes and fasten your seat belt.

Avoid Collisions

As you move:

- Look in the direction of travel
- Be aware of where your view is obstructed
- Travel with the load trailing or use a spotter
- Slow down and sound the horn at intersections and when your vision is obstructed
- Ensure adequate clearance for rear tail and front fork swing
- Stay inside of the operator's compartment (avoid being pinned/crushed)
- Do NOT stand or pass under parts of the rough terrain forklift
- Heavy loads dropped from a distance may injure you, even in the cab

Preventing Tip-Overs

Tip-overs may be more likely due to:

- Unstable surfaces
- Rocks
- Potholes
- Load or boom raised
- Operating near capacity

Under- and over-inflation increase risk of tire failure and tip-over. Maintain manufacturer recommended tire air pressure.

Slopes and Grades

When **loaded**, travel with the load upgrade. When **unloaded**, keep load-engaging means downgrade.

When you ascend or descend a grade:

- Keep loads low and tilted back
- Downshift to a lower gear
- Engage four-wheel drive

To prevent tip-overs, **avoid**:

- Speeding
- Abrupt movements/braking
- Tight/fast turns
- Turning on slopes
- Driving with the load raised

If the rough terrain forklift begins to tip:

1. Brace yourself.
2. Lean away from the impact.
3. Stay in the cab.

Lifting

Before lifting, consult the manual, load capacity chart, and data plate for safe lifting practices and load capacities for the rough terrain forklift you will operate.

Before lifting:

1. Stop on a stable surface.
2. Set the parking brake.
3. Shift the transmission into neutral.
4. Level the forklift.
5. Lift the load.

Leveling

Use leveling functions and outriggers to improve stability, if possible.

Lifting without leveling leads to tip-overs.

Never make leveling adjustments with the load raised.

Watch for changes in footing or shifting conditions.

After the load is in the air, bring the load back down before re-leveling the rough terrain forklift.

Parking

When the lift is complete:

1. Retract the boom.
2. Lower forks to the carry position.
3. Park on a flat surface where you will not block fire aisles, stairways or safety equipment.
4. Place directional controls in neutral.
5. Apply the parking brake.
6. Position forks or attachments flat on the ground.
7. Turn off the engine.
8. Remove the key to prevent unauthorized operation.