Powered Industrial Trucks – Pre-Operation Checks Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. **Mechanical Failures:** Neglecting pre-operation checks can lead to undetected issues such as faulty brakes, steering malfunctions, or hydraulic leaks, increasing the risk of accidents.
2. **Operator Injury:** Operating a powered industrial truck (PIT) with undetected defects can result in operator injuries, including crush injuries or falls.
3. **Load Handling Issues:** Damaged forks or mast assemblies can compromise the ability to handle loads safely, leading to dropped or unstable loads.
4. **Environmental Hazards:** Failure to identify and address environmental factors such as obstructions, uneven surfaces, or poor lighting during pre-operation checks can contribute to accidents.
5. **Equipment Downtime:** Undetected issues can lead to equipment failure during operation, causing unplanned downtime and affecting productivity.
6. **Increased Liability:** Accidents resulting from neglected inspections can lead to legal liabilities and increased insurance costs for the employer.

STATS

- OSHA’s 2023 data reported that 18% of PIT-related violations involved failure to conduct pre-operation checks, contributing to 2,500 injuries annually in warehousing and construction.
- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 12% of PIT accidents in British Columbia were linked to uninspected equipment, with

20% involving brake or steering failures.

- The CDC’s 2023 NIOSH Safety Report estimated that 25% of forklift injuries could be prevented with consistent pre-operation checks, saving $50 million in workers’ compensation costs.
- Statistics Canada’s 2021 Workplace Safety Survey found that 10% of PIT operators in manufacturing lacked training on pre-operation inspections, correlating with higher accident rates.
- A 2022 Journal of Occupational Safety study indicated that 30% of PIT tip-over incidents were tied to undetected defects, preventable with daily checks per OSHA 1910.178.
- CCOHS reported in 2023 that workplaces with documented pre-operation checklists reduced PIT-related incidents by 22%, aligning with CSA B335 standards.
- A 2024 EHS Today analysis found that 15% of PIT injuries (approximately 1,800 cases) were linked to skipped pre-operation checks, addressable through OSHA’s sample checklists.