

# TOW YARD SAFETY



## INTRODUCTION

Tow yards are necessary for vehicle storage. Employees who work in a tow yard could potentially be exposed to harm. Following the safe work practices presented in this lesson will help ensure employee safety.

## HAZARDS

When working in a tow yard, employees could potentially be exposed to the following hazards:

- Workplace violence
- Getting crushed
- Cuts or lacerations
- Exposure to extreme weather conditions
- Fire
- Slipping, tripping, or falling



## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Employees should wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, which may include:

- Reflective vest or jacket
  - *Depending on the employer, employees may be required to wear a class 3 safety vest.*
- Steel-toe or composite-toe shoes



## SAFE WORK PRACTICES

When working in a tow yard, employees should do the following:

- Ensure that you are dressed appropriately for the day's weather.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- When it is feasible, avoid walking in unlit areas at night.
- Be calm when interacting with customers.
- Do NOT allow customers into the yard without an authorized employee present.
- Watch customer body language for indicators of aggression.
- If you do not feel comfortable with a situation, either ask the customer to leave until they have had a chance to calm down or ask your supervisor to take over.
- Ensure that all security procedures are followed in accordance with your company's policies.
- Do NOT drive a customer's vehicle while it is in the tow yard.
- Watch out for sharp edges or broken glass when working around damaged vehicles.
- Immediately clean up all spills and broken glass in accordance with your company's policy.
- Only authorized employees should operate forklifts.
- Ensure that you are visible to forklift operators.
- Ensure that you have made eye contact with the forklift operator prior to moving in front of it.

When entering or exiting the yard, employees should do the following:

- Ensure that there are no pedestrians before entering or exiting through the gate.
- Alert others to your presence by signaling with your horn.
- Stand to the side of your vehicle when unloading customer vehicles into their spot (if applicable).
- Do NOT have someone stand directly behind your vehicle when unloading customer vehicles.

## CONCLUSION

Tow yards are necessary for storage of vehicles while they are either processed for evidence or when people illegally park. Employees working in tow yards could potentially be exposed to harm. By following the safe work practices presented in this lesson, employees can help minimize their chances of being injured while working in the tow yard.

