

## How to operate a Rough Terrain Forklift Safely?

Rough terrain forklifts specialize in providing power when there is no paved surface around and can be usually found in lumberyards and transporting materials around construction sites. As they are ideal for working in harsher environments, often with uneven ground surfaces, the safety considerations for the operator and workers within the vicinity is paramount.

1. In order to prevent a potentially disastrous tip over this machine needs to be level and all tires firmly on the ground during load raising operations. These machines are top heavy and extreme caution must be maintained even though they were designed for rough terrain application.
2. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires forklifts to be operated at a safe speed at all times, although, they do not set forklift speed limits. Steering can become more difficult when operating on uneven or rough terrain.
3. The load should be on the uphill side of the machine when operating on any kind of incline. It is important to drive up the incline and then back down. Never attempt raising a load while operating on an incline as this can cause a rapid change in the center of gravity, or COG, and a tip over accident will occur.
4. Operators need to wear eye and hearing protection in many work environments. Ensuring the overhead guard is securely in place and wearing a seat belt are safety measures that should always be taken. It is wise to have a fire extinguisher mounted on the forklift itself as well.
5. Icy or wet conditions must be taken into consideration in regards to turning, speed and load handling of the forklifts.