

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Use Caution with Lift Gates

Lift gates are powerful devices, and it is very important that you take safety procedures seriously when using them. Lift gates can be dangerous to both you and the freight you carry, but if you take proper precautions, you will stay safe.

Uses of Lift Gates

Lift gates are designed to load and unload cargo. If you use a lift gate for any other purpose, you are risking injury or death. Never use a lift gate as a jack or to pull or push other objects. It is not designed to plow snow, shear or break other objects.

Safety Guidelines

- Read the lift gate operator's manual and follow all directions.
- Maintain the lift gate as is recommended in the manufacturer's instructions.
- Inspect the lift gate daily to ensure there is no damage. If you find wear and tear, notify your manager immediately.
- Never let anyone who hasn't been trained operate the lift gate.
- Identify pinch points on the lift gate and avoid them to stay safe.
- The platform of the lift gate should never be open while the vehicle is moving.
- Secure top-heavy items with ratchet straps.
- Never put a piece of freight in motion that is beyond your ability to control once it starts moving.
- Recruit extra help to put more hands on risky freight.
- Use proper devices, such as a pallet jack, tripod dollies or platform dollies, to move freight on the gate.
- If unloading in a busy street, use safety cones to block the lane, wear reflective vests and create safe space in which to work.
- In rain, cover freight with a waterproof tarp, and wrap it securely around freight like you would a furniture pad or shrink wrap. This allows you to take your time when using the gate.
- Stay focused, and never rush.
- Always have an escape plan. Anticipate how items may go out of control and where they would fall. Be prepared to get out of the way to keep from getting hurt.