



Wholesale Store Workplace Exposures

Wholesale Stores provide several potential workplace hazards that can cause serious injury to stock personnel, clerical personnel, and drivers in clothing stores, auto parts operations, furniture stores, and other wholesale operations. FFVA Mutual safety consultants can assist in evaluating workplace exposures and provide appropriate loss control recommendations.

Wholesale Store Workplace Exposures

- Falling merchandise
- Fleet exposures
- Forklifts
- Heavy lifting
- Ladders
- Trip and falls

Developing a Loss Control Program

To successfully implement a workplace safety program, management must be willing to reduce and eliminate workplace injuries. There has to be a 100% commitment to establish an injury-free working environment.

Stock Personnel Safety

- A safety training program identifying the specific hazards of the job should be in place for all new hires.
- All employees should be trained in the proper placement and positioning of ladders.
- All forklift operators should be trained and authorized under Federal OSHA guidelines.
- Any spills of liquid material should be cleaned immediately and wet floor signs displayed.
- Ensure all ladders meet OSHA safety requirements (refer to OSHA 1926.25 sub part L).
- Forklift backup warning devices and overhead protection should be in place.
- Load limit should be clearly marked on forklifts.
- Manual lifting should not be performed if lifting can be done mechanically with hoists or forklifts.
- Non-skid footwear is recommended to reduce potential for slip and fall injuries.
- Proper ladders should be provided and inspected daily.
- Proper Lifting Techniques:
 - Check the weight first and determine if assistance is needed.
 - Keep the load close to the body without twisting or turning.
 - Place feet close to object, bend knees, keep back straight, and lift using legs.
 - While bending at the knees, set the load down slowly.
- Regular maintenance should be completed on forklifts by a qualified technician.
- Stock should be properly stacked on sturdy shelving to prevent merchandise from falling.
- To avoid trip and fall injuries, all aisles and passageways should be kept clear.

- Traffic patterns should be clearly marked for forklifts and pedestrians.

Clerical Personnel Safety

Computer workstations should be inspected to ensure monitors, keyboards, and chair adjustments match the physical characteristics of the employee.

- Encourage office employees to periodically look away from computer monitors and focus on distant objects to prevent eye strain.
- File drawers should remain closed when not in use.
- Floor rugs and mats should not be curled or frayed at corners. Replace when necessary to reduce trip and fall injuries.

Fleet Safety

- Authorized drivers should take an annual defensive driving course.
- Criteria for determining an adverse driving record should be developed such as number of points per year, DUI, and chargeable accidents.
- Drivers should not carry money.
- Motor Vehicle Reports (MVRs) should be obtained from the fleet insurance carrier every six months.
- Only trained/authorized drivers should be permitted to drive company vehicles.
- The use of personal vehicles should be discouraged. Use of personal vehicles creates the potential for an automobile accident and a subsequent workers' compensation claim.
- Unsafe vehicles should be removed from service until recommended repairs are made.
- Vehicle inspections should be the responsibility of the driver. Documented inspection forms should be used.