

Motorized Weight Mover Safety

OSHA 3071 -2002 (Revised)

"A job hazard analysis is a technique that focuses on job tasks as a way to identify hazards before they occur. It focuses on the relationship between the worker, the task, the tools, and the work environment. Ideally, after you identify uncontrolled hazards, you will take steps to eliminate or reduce them to an acceptable risk level."

Much of the equipment used by Weights and Measures officials does not have specific safety requirements defined by OSHA. This requires administrators to conduct job hazard analysis. By reviewing OSHA documents and various equipment requirements, an administrator should be able to discern the relevant safety obligations that you should consider when building a safety training program around a specific piece of equipment.

Program equipment such as motorized weight movers would best be modeled after the OSHA requirements for forklift drivers. Motorized weight movers have many of the attributes of a forklift though a much lower center of gravity. To certify as a forklift driver employees are mandated to pass a written and skills test. Your safety procedures should address all associated equipment that your staff will use and job situations that they are likely to encounter. Using this as a model, an administrator can build on these components.

The following job hazard analysis is for a motorized weight mover designed for mounted movement control.

- Hard hat is required to be worn while using the weight mover near the crane or in livestock scales.

Starting:

- Make Sure That the Brakes Are Set (unless equipped with auto locking brakes)
- Move Switch to the On Position
- Chock Throttle
- Depress Start Button

Skill Requirement: Start Weight Mover

Parking:

- If Equipped with Hydraulic Brakes, Flip Brake Lever Up Or Depress Brake Pedal
- If Equipped with Auto Locking Brakes, Move/Release Lever into Neutral Position

Skill Requirement: Park Weight Mover

Movement:

- Backing Up is for Maneuvering Only

Skill Requirement: Back Through an 'Ess' Turn and Circle

- General Movement Should be Forward as the Situation Allows

Skill Requirement: Drive Weight Mover Forward Through an 'Ess' Turn and Circle

- Changing Directions

Skill Requirement: At a Complete Stop Engage the Forward/reverse Lever Slowly to Prevent Launching Driver From the Weight Mover

Braking:

- If Equipped with Hydraulic Brakes, Do Not Use the Accelerator and Brake at the Same Time
- If Equipped with Auto Locking Brakes, Move Control Lever to Neutral

Skill Requirement: Brake Weight Mover While Moving Forward and Backwards

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Overhead Clearance:

- Clearance Must be Sufficient for Inspector to Safely and Easily Maneuver the Weight Mover Without Hitting Their Head on Overhead Obstructions
- If There is Insufficient Clearance the Inspector Should Not Attempt to Use the Mover Unmounted

Skill Requirement: Visually Demonstrate the Ability to Judge Proper Overhead Clearance

Steep Slopes/Inclines:

- Do Not Use the Weight Mover on a Steep Slope or Incline Which Compromises the Stability of the Unit - Tip Over Risk
- You Shall Not Conduct Inspections on Slopes or Inclines Which Prevent Safe Braking or Maneuvering

Skill Requirement: Visually Demonstrate the Ability to Judge a Steep Slope or Incline

Proper Use of the Weight Mover:

- No Unauthorized Use of the Weight Mover
- It is an Official Vehicle Which May Only be Used for Official Business

Skill Requirement: Verbally Demonstrate the Ability to Judge Proper Official Business

Mechanical Problems:

- Every Mechanical Problem Must be Reported to Your Supervisor
- Hang Red Tag on the Weight Mover and Turn Stub in to Your Supervisor
- Weight Mover May Not be Used Until Safety Problems Have Been Corrected

Unforeseen Problems:

- The Weight Mover May Not be Used in Any Unsafe Condition Not Addressed by This Policy
 - Report All Unsafe Conditions, Whether Mechanical or Situational, to Your Supervisor

— Manuel Villicana, NCWM Member