

## Executive Summary

### THE BGSU POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCK PROGRAM

In 1970, the United States Congress established the right of workers to "safe and healthful working conditions" through the Occupational Safety and Health Act. This act created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In July 1994, Federal OSHA standards became effective for Ohio public employers, including Bowling Green State University and other state agencies through the Ohio Public Employee Risk Reduction Act. On October 7<sup>th</sup> of that same year, the BGSU Board of Trustees established the following policy: "It is Bowling Green State University's policy to comply with the occupational safety and health standards of the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act and all applicable Federal, State and Local rules, regulations and directives."

The Powered Industrial Truck standard is one of the OSHA standards adopted under the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act. This standard details specific provisions for training and safe operation of powered industrial trucks. The standard requires design and construction requirements, safe operation, fire protection, powered industrial truck inspections and maintenance, and an operator-training program.

The objective of this program is to establish requirements and training for work involving the operation of a powered industrial truck to

- provide a safe working environment;
- govern operator use of powered industrial trucks and;
- ensure proper care and maintenance of powered industrial trucks.

This program applies to all university employees, including Firelands, who operate powered industrial trucks. A powered industrial truck is an industrial vehicle that pushes, pulls, stacks or tiers. Powered industrial trucks include fork trucks, tractors, platform lift trucks, motorized hand trucks, and other specialized industrial trucks powered by electric motors or internal combustion engines. Golf carts are also considered a powered industrial truck when used for maintenance activities. This standard does not apply to compressed air or non-flammable compressed gasoperated industrial trucks, farm vehicles, or vehicles intended for earth moving or over-the-road hauling. The Powered Industrial Truck Program outlines safe practices and procedures for operation.

The BGSU written program provides guidelines for complying with the design and construction requirements, safe operation, fire protection, powered industrial truck inspections and maintenance, and operator training program. The program also identifies the responsibilities of all parties involved including: the Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, management (department chairpersons and directors), supervisors, and powered industrial truck operators.

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