

MSI PARTNERSHIP REPLICATES PRIVATE INDUSTRY FORKLIFT TRAINING PROGRAMS

BY **TUJAUNA WHITE**, MARKETING SPECIALIST, MICHIGAN STATE INDUSTRIES

Michigan State Industries Janitorial Operation is located at the Ryan Correctional Facility, Detroit, Michigan. The facility, renamed a few years ago as the Detroit Reentry Center, is now focused on reentry programming for parolees and probationers. On March 1, 2016 a joint venture and partnership was created to equip parolees and probationers with forklift work skills training and certification. WRAP (Wayne County Residential Alternative) Training Program is a unique collaboration with the Detroit Reentry Center, MSI Janitorial Operations, and the Wayne County Judicial System.



Continued from page 21

safely. Offenders who have completed their certifications also assist with training fellow offenders. The following training guidelines ensure that every offender / operator is competent to operate a forklift safely:

- After participating in a formal training program in the form of lecture, discussion, or classroom presentation, an operator must successfully complete a written evaluation.
- Forklift operators must participate in practical training which includes a demonstration of safe driving practices by the trainer. As part of the practical training, operators must also practice vehicle operation exercises.
- Operators must successfully complete a “hands on” performance evaluation.
- The WRAP manager certifies that each operator is fully trained and evaluated. The WRAP coordinator must keep training records and may issue certificates to trained, competent operators. A certified forklift operator must be re-evaluated regularly to ensure they remain competent to operate a forklift safely.

Effective forklift training also covers the following major areas:

- General hazards that apply to the operation of all or most forklifts
- Hazards associated with the operation of particular types of trucks
- General workplace hazards such as lighting and surface conditions
- Hazards of the particular workplace where the vehicle operates
- Propane and stand-up, out-reach and electric zero turn Hi-Lo operation
- Electric pallet jack operations

Offenders receive a minimum of ten hours of actual Hi-Lo training, at which they are subject to additional evaluation in loading and unloading of semi-trailers, shelf stacking, unstacking, finished good skid wrapping using an electric skid wrap machines, and pulling orders from a pic list. At the conclusion of 10 hours of training each operator completes a written test and driving evaluation. A MIOSHA certificate is awarded which states the operator



has met all necessary requirements to operate a forklift within the MSI janitorial warehouse and manufacturing operations. The MIOSHA certification is nationally recognized by employers worldwide. As of today, the MSI/WRAP program has trained and certified over 25 probationers with over 10 hours of Hi-Lo time clocked. The forklift training program is widely recognized by local employers, and supply chain warehouses amongst other Michigan businesses. Michigan parole offices, local law enforcement, and MDOC officials tour the program often to evaluate the program and match offenders with job opportunities upon reentry.



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