SIMA, NORFOLK'S FORKLIFT SAFETY PROGRAM

The Transportation Department at Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA), Norfolk offers intensive forklift operator training classes to qualify new operators and periodically re-qualify experienced personnel. Before taking the forklift exam and driving test, operators undergo one day of classroom training and one day of monitored driving. A Job Qualification Requirement (JQR) for forklift operators is issued to personnel who pass the exam. The JQR involves 24 hours of additional forklift driving, which is supervised by a licensed forklift operator. Strict adherence to operating and safety procedures is stressed throughout the course and while on the job.

Over 115 SIMA personnel received Forklift Safety training and re-certification during Fiscal Year 1999. During this period, SIMA's Transportation Forklift Instructors issued 65 new licenses. Training and licensing personnel on site resulted in an estimated cost avoidance of $50,600.00 for the fiscal year.