



February 20, 2026

Forklift Operation and Safety Training held at SMCI

LEAKESVILLE - The South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) hosted a specialized forklift operation and safety training session for inmates from the Forrest County Community Work Center (CWC) and the Recidivism Reduction Program (RRP).

This initiative—organized and planned with the assistance of Project Manager Supervisor Sarah James, Forrest County CWC Deputy Warden Michella Morris, and Program Team Lead Petrice Adams—is another example of the facility's ongoing commitment to fostering vocational skills and meaningful rehabilitation.

The comprehensive training program provides participants with both instruction and hands-on experience, focusing on safety standards, loading and unloading procedures, and fueling operations. By completing this training, residents gain a competitive edge in the workforce, directly supporting successful reentry and reducing future recidivism.

"Our mission is to provide more than just supervision; we are dedicated to providing opportunity," said SMCI Brand Huffman. "By equipping these men with tangible skills like forklift certification, we are giving them the tools they need to become productive, self-sufficient citizens the moment they return to their communities. Rehabilitation is built on the foundation of a second chance, and that second chance begins with a marketable skill."

The forklift training is part of an array of MDOC career and technical programs designed to meet the growing demands of Mississippi's logistics and manufacturing sectors.

