

The Top 5 Safety Hazards in Warehouse Operations

Warehouse working spaces are no stranger to hazards and high risks of things going awry. When people, machines, and deadlines come together in one space, hazards are bound to arise. Warehouses are one of the most hazardous places to work, with a fatality rate that is above the national average. Five common safety hazards in the warehouse industry include:

Forklifts

Forklifts are one of the greatest hazards in the warehousing industry. Each year 20,000 employees are seriously injured in warehouse forklift-related accidents. An estimated one hundred employees are killed by forklift-related accidents each year, 25% of these fatalities caused specifically by the forklift overturning. The root cause of a good amount of these injuries can be traced back to proper employee training.

Slips and Falls

Slips and falls are a close second. Warehouse slip and fall accidents make up 15% of all accidental deaths, 25% of all injury claims, and an astounding 95 million lost work days each year. Slips and Falls are 100% preventable. Housekeeping, congestion and clutter, cords, skids and materials all cause slip and fall injuries.

Docks

Docks are one area of a warehousing operation deserving heavy attention from a safety standpoint. 25% of all reported warehouse injuries occur on loading docks and this does not include near misses which happen with even more frequency. An average loading dock is 44 - 48 inches in height, any slip or fall from a loading dock has a high probability of serious injury.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials can be anything from flammable liquids to radioactive materials, basically, anything that can cause physical harm to an employee. Spills and improper use, storage and handling of chemicals can cause damages and injuries to workers.

Repetitive Motion

Another warehouse hazard that can have more long-term build up before an injury event is triggered. Repetitive motions can wear down employees over time, leading to reduced range of motion and lower back and neck pain. This can be from repeated standing, sitting, twisting, reaching, carrying, pushing and pulling activities.

If you would like to book a no-cost 30 minute virtual consultation please use the link to schedule your session.

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