

## Ergonomic and Safety Reference for Intralogistics Company Change from the C-Suite to the Operational Employees...

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**(The Magazine for Environmental, Health and Safety Leaders)**

### **Amazon Sets Ambitious Safety Plans**

Amazon now boasts a global workforce of 1.3 million, and a U.S. workforce of about 950,000. Those figures don't account for the hundreds of thousands of seasonal or temporary workers or third-party contractors. That has presented a massive challenge for keeping Amazon workers safe, from new hire training to ongoing support for current employees, all the while trying to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Jeff Bezos, Amazon's founder and executive chairman, acknowledged some of the company's shortcomings in a March 5 letter to stakeholders. "Despite what we've accomplished, it's clear to me that we need a better vision for our employees' success," In that letter he also wrote. "I am committing us that we are going to be Earth's Best Employer and Earth's Safest Place to Work." Bezos announced that last year, Amazon spent \$11.5 billion on COVID-19 safety measures... and in 2021 Amazon will invest more than \$300 million into safety projects.

**The motivation is simple**, says Heather MacDougall, Amazon's vice president of worldwide workplace health and safety. "Our employees are the heart and soul of our operations, so we're working really hard every day to make sure, not only that they're healthy and safe at work, but they feel deeply cared about, and they're proud to work for Amazon," she tells *EHS Today*. Although Amazon is still navigating the pandemic, she stated "Amazon is already setting its sights on other workplace safety initiatives". **"Safety and performance targets can go hand in hand,** and that will continue to be the case at Amazon," she stated in her closing.