

0.1 Forklift related accidents and injuries

Forklift related accidents are a common occurrence, both with solid stationery objects and moving pedestrians. According to data from "article 1" there are around 34,000 injuries from forklifts in the US every year. This results in a great number of lost work days and that can be expensive for companies that may need to pay another employee overtime to make up for the lost work.

Out of 143 incidents with collection with solid objects 75 of them are with stationery objects. And 53 of them are collection between forklifts. Both of these types of incidents are related to human error, like not paying attention to their surroundings then operating forklifts.

Out of 322 incidents to pedestrians around 50% of them are incidents where the forklifts struck a pedestrian by accident.

Safety for forklifts can be greatly increased by the use of sensors that enables the forklifts to avoid obstacles by itself with the human error factor. This is similar to how safety in cars has been greatly improved in recent years.

0.2 Is there a market for self-driving forklifts?

Most companies are always in competition about who can make the best product to the lowest cost. One vital part for any company with a physical product is the distribution of that product. If it means that a company can be more competitive if they reduce their cost for distribution out to the retailers. One way this has been done in recent years are to move manufacturing and distribution of the product to countries where the average salaries are lower. This does have one major flaw however, it can not always be expended that the same quality of work can be done at a lower cost. This meant that some companies moved back to their origin. But these companies still need to stay somewhat competitive, so there can automation of task be a real good investment to a company. Having a warehouse that works 24h a day automatic is a great cost reduction, that can help the company stay competitive on the price without making compromises on the quality.

article 1 :Injuries Related to Forklifts and Other Powered Industrial Vehicles in Automobile by James W. Collins,