Warehouse Safety Stats and Facts

FACTS

Common Warehouse Injuries:

- 1. **Forklift accidents**. The most common accidents involve overturned forklifts, which can crush and seriously injure or kill the employee.
- 2. **Hit by an object**. Objects stacked high on pallets put workers at risk of being hit by an object. Pallet collapses and falling objects often result in concussions, back injuries, shoulder injuries, and worse.
- 3. Caught between objects. Warehouse work puts hands, fingers, feet, and even whole bodies at risk of being caught between pieces of equipment, between heavy objects, or even between a truck and the loading dock.
- 4. **Slips, trips, and falls.** The four-foot drop between the loading dock and the ground below presents a serious hazard to worker safety. Other potential hazards include spilled powders, oils, or water. Uneven walking surfaces, inadequate lighting, and exposed cords also put worker safety at risk.
- 5. **Hazardous materials.** When shipments containing hazardous materials become damaged and spill, it can result in chemical burns, fire, convulsions, and even long-term effects such as cancer or organ damage.
- 6. Overexertion injuries. Tasks involving lifting, pulling, carrying, and lowering heavy objects can result in overexertion injuries including back and neck injuries, muscle strain, and joint injuries.
- 7. Repetitive stress injuries. A job that requires a significant amount of repetitive motion over a long period of time puts the employee at risk of repetitive stress injuries. These may include carpal tunnel, muscle strain, and joint injuries.

STATS

- Overexertion is a massive problem for warehouse workers, resulting in injuries from employees putting their bodies through too much stress. The BLS recorded over 8,000 injuries due to overexertion.
- Loading docks are one of the most dangerous places for warehouse employees. Not only do 25% of all warehouse accidents happen on loading docks, but for every injury, there are around 600 near misses.
- Forklifts are one of the biggest hazards in a warehouse.
 - 90% of forklifts are involved in some type of accident over the course of their lifetime.
 - 11% of forklifts in the U.S. are involved in an accident each year.
 - 80% of forklift accidents involve a pedestrian.
- As many as 20,000 workers are injured in forklift accidents alone each year and 25 percent of those accidents happen when a forklift overturns.
- OSHA estimates that the number of forklift-related accidents alone total nearly 100,000 per year.
- Over 145,000 laborers across the U.S. work in warehouses, as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports. About one in 20 of these workers will suffer injuries in a given year, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.