



# Forklift/Pedestrian Safety Systems

Forklifts and pedestrians work simultaneously in the same work environment across many industries. There are a variety of safety systems and options available for organizations to keep operators and pedestrians safe in the work environment. These systems are not a substitute to a sound forklift and pedestrian program, but they can provide additional layers of protection to employees.

**Blue Lights** - These lights can be installed facing the rear or front of the forklift. The blue light shines approximately 15-20' from the forklift giving pedestrians and other operators a visual warning of the forklift's presence.

**Perimeter Lighting** - These typically mount on the top of the cage and put a long, thin red beam on the floor approximately 1-4' out from the forklift's sides. The position of the light on the floor makes pedestrians aware of the safe distance to keep when alongside a forklift.

**Proximity Detection Systems** - These devices use audible and visual warning systems to alert both the forklift operator and the pedestrian of each other's presence.

Each forklift is equipped with an audible and visual alarm and each pedestrian wears a small personal alarm device about the size of a cell phone. It can be secured to a belt, attached with Velcro or other various methods. The alarm and light will turn on when the sensors get close to one another.

**Collision Awareness** - Collision awareness sensors, similar to the traffic signals that you see at roadway intersections, can be installed in the workplace. These sensors flash to alert drivers and pedestrians of any incoming forklift or person. They are beneficial in potentially hazardous, tight and blind corners. These sensor systems can be mounted on ceilings, corners, or on upright racking.

**Designated Walkways/Crosswalks** - Define designated walkways/crosswalks and forklift-only work areas to help reduce the likelihood of a struck-by injury. Consider using floor markings, physical barriers or railings to separate forklifts and pedestrians. Blind spot mirrors, intersections and stop signs also improve visibility and control speed through pedestrian areas.

**Backup Alarms** - These alarms (either audio and/or visual) can aid in warning pedestrians of forklifts moving in a backing direction, where the operator's vision may be obscured by either a fuel tank or an awkward body position.