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Preventing Industrial “Blind Spot” Accidents with Safety Mirrors

By JOHN MANGIAMELI

Though many types of safety equipment exist, one of the most effective and economical approaches is preventing collisions with special industrial safety mirrors and domes that are shatter resistant, weatherproof and can be customized to fit the unique needs of the industrial environment.

The use of these devices is an approach already widely accepted in many workplace safety programs and due to its simplicity, affordability and customizable properties, convex mirrors and mirrored domes are rapidly gaining traction among industrial safety managers worldwide.

Dangerous Work Zones

Safety is often compromised in facilities when both employees operating heavy equipment like forklifts encounter stock pickers or others on foot at dangerous intersections or blind spots.

“If someone is carrying product, chemicals, or items involved in production, a near miss can cause them to fall or drop a what they are holding, which can lead to all kinds of issues,” says David Johnson, Merchandising Manager at Northern Safety Co., a supplier of industrial safety equipment.

While some safety precautions already exist in such environments, none are foolproof. For example, for forklifts and other ve-

hicles that “beep” loudly when in reverse, the noise inside and outside a busy facility can often drown out such warnings.

“When vehicle operators drive in reverse, they are often looking the opposite way that they are traveling,” says Johnson. “The noise level at production plants can also distract workers. That’s when the risk of an industrial accident multiplies – when employees cannot adequately see or hear vehicles or foot traffic at intersections and other high risk areas.”

As a solution, industrial safety mirrors and domes provide a vital secondary level of visual protection at locations where the collision risk is greatest. To accommodate a range of needs, many options are available.

This provides additional safety at corner and “T” intersections outdoors. Strategically positioning these mirrors at the ends of warehouse aisles and outside corners can also help to prevent accidents at blind spots in indoor spaces as well.

“The true value of such mirrors is how economically they can help to prevent accidents and enhance production uptime,” concludes Johnson. **FSM**

John Mangiameli is executive vice president at Se-Kure Controls, Inc. *Se-Kure Domes & Mirrors* www.domesandmirrors.com.



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