Warehouse Automation: Robots, AGVs and Worker Interaction Safety Picture This



This image shows a busy automated warehouse where an autonomous robot and an AGV (automated guided vehicle) are moving pallets through narrow aisles. A worker steps into the travel path to retrieve an item, assuming the machine will stop in time. The robot’s sensors detect movement, but the space is tight, the load blocks visibility, and the worker is focused on the task rather than the machine’s approach. In highly automated environments, danger can develop silently and fast.

Warehouse automation introduces new hazards that aren’t always obvious—struck-by incidents, crushing zones, unexpected starts, and pinch points between robots, shelving, and workers. Unlike traditional equipment, automated systems may continue moving unless properly programmed, controlled, and separated from pedestrian areas. Always respect robot travel zones, follow marked pathways, use lockout procedures before entering robotic cells, and ensure clear communication between human workers and automated equipment. In automation, safety depends on strict controls and constant awareness at the human-machine boundary.