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SafeSourcing e-Newsletter

Have comments, questions, or suggestions about the SafeSourcing e-Newsletter? Let us know what you think by emailing us at the following address. We look forward to hearing from you!

events@safesourcing.com

Trivia!

What does Effective Competition mean?

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Industry News

Robots

Robots Raise Stress for Humans

Warehouse workers are getting used to working beside robots. These are the same workers that once thought their jobs would be jeopardized to mechanical replacements. Doing a job side-by-side with a mechanical robot is far from easy. The machines were thought to take care of the more mundane and physically strenuous tasks; however, working in close proximity with a robot that weighs a half-ton poses a lot of problems. “They weigh a lot, Amazon worker Amanda Taillon said during a pre-Christmas rush at a company warehouse in Connecticut. Nearby, a fleet of 6-foot tall roving robot shelves zipped around behind a chain-linked fence.” Taillon’s job is to pick up fallen product that the robot drops. She wears strapped-on utility belt to halt a robot while she retrieves a dropped product. One misstep and she’s hurt, not by one robot, but possibly many. She doesn’t know where the other robots are entering. Amazon now has 200,000 robots in their fulfillment centers. That is double the number from last year. A recent journalistic investigation of injury rates in Amazon warehouses from the Center for Investigative Reporting revealed robotic warehouses reported more injuries than those without.

Workers are trained to work with robots, but the standard is set high with the speed of robots. “Much of the boom warehouse robots has its roots in Amazon’s \$775 million purchase of Massachusetts startup Kiva Systems in 2012. The tech giant rebranded it as Amazon Robotics and transformed it into an in-house laboratory that for seven years has been designing and building Amazon’s armada.” Amazon set the standard for retailers. ■

Matt O'Brien, The Arizona Republic, 12/31/2019

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

Feb.	Answer to our Trivia!
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Recent Savings

Uniforms

Savings were over 20% of total spend. ■

Snow Removal

Savings were over 32% of total spend. ■

*Please [contact SafeSourcing](#) to schedule your RISK FREE event today.

Signed Law to Reduce Robocalls

On Monday, December 30th, President Trump signed into law an anti-robocall measure aimed at reducing unwanted calls such as companies pretending to be the IRS or companies claiming to reduce mortgages. "The new law gives authorities more enforcement powers and could speed up measures the industry is already using to identify robocalls. And when phone companies block robocalls, they must do so without charging consumers, which should help Americans dodge calls."

This legislation updates previous laws and stiffens penalties. Robocalls developed because cheap software made it easy to make mass marketing calls. It is estimated that billions of robocalls are made each month. As an example, this has hampered hospital staff by identifying what appears to be an internal call, but in fact it is not, thereby not allowing hospital staff to do their jobs. Also, many Americans have been duped out of millions of dollars on IRS scams. It has been difficult for Federal authorities to collect the millions of dollars in fines from scammers as many are located overseas. Not all robocalls are scammers. Robocalls have allowed pharmacies to inform customers their prescriptions are ready or for schools to alert that there is a snow delay or cancellation. ■

Tali Arbil, AZCentral.com, 12/30/2019

Robots in Warehouses

Warehouse robotics spiked to \$1.5 billion a year in 2015 and has continued to grow since then. Shopify, a Canadian e-commerce company, spent \$450 million this past fall to purchase a Massachusetts-based startup company called 6 Rivers Systems which makes an autonomous cart called "Chuck" that follows workers around a warehouse. Other mobile robot startups have begun partnering with FedEx and DHL. Amazon purchased another robotic startup this year, Canvas Technology, which builds wheeled robots guided by computer vision. "Such robots would be more fully autonomous than Amazon's current fleet of caged-off vehicles, which have to follow bar codes and previously mapped routes within warehouses."

Currently in Goodyear, Arizona, the Pegasus (a squarish vehicle with a conveyor belt on top) is handling the warehouse early morning shift. The Pegasus crisscrosses across the warehouse floor and deposits packaged goods into chutes based on zip codes. This is transforming warehouse work and lowers costs to the consumer. ■

Matt O'Brien, The Arizona Republic, 12/31/2019

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How can I subscribe or unsubscribe to these newsletters?

A: You can subscribe or unsubscribe to these free newsletters by simply going to our [website](#), and clicking the option "e-Newsletter" or by contacting us directly at events@safesourcing.com.

Q: I have run events in the past, is there any chance I could be saving more?

A: Yes. No matter when your past event ran, the team at SafeSourcing can find ways for your company to save.

Q: I want to know more about what SafeSourcing does. Who can I talk to about this?

A: You can contact a customer services representative by calling us at 1-888-261-9070 or by going to our [website](#) and trying our "Risk Free Trial" offer.

Trivia! From November 2019 Issue

What does WLAN mean?

Wireless local area network, or WLAN, allows a laptop user (or a strong desktop user) to unhook and roam freely about the building while maintaining a connection to the Internet.

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