Harvard forum examining safety of self-driving vehicles

May 4 2018

In this Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, file photo, an autonomous vehicle is driven by an engineer on a street in an industrial park in Boston. Harvard University's School of Public Health is holding a forum on Friday, May 4, 2018, to examine how recent deaths linked to self-driving technology are causing concern about safety, and raising questions about whether the field is moving too quickly. (AP Photo/Steven Senne, File)

A Harvard University forum is examining how a recent death linked to self-driving technology is causing concern about safety.

Friday's panel discussion at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health is exploring whether the field is advancing too quickly.

Some experts are pointing to the March death of a pedestrian struck by a self-driving Uber vehicle in Tempe, Arizona, as cause for serious safety concern. It was the first death involving a fully autonomous test vehicle.

Current federal regulations have few requirements specifically for self-driving vehicles, leaving it for states to handle.

Participants will include Deborah Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council, and John Leonard, vice president of research at the Toyota Research Institute. Toyota has been working with Uber on driverless systems.

Citation: Harvard forum examining safety of self-driving vehicles (2018, May 4) retrieved 3 May 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2018-05-harvard-forum-safety-self-driving-vehicles.html