Preventing Deaths and Injuries While Compacting or Baling Refuse Material

WARNING!

Workers loading, operating, or working near refuse compacting or baling equipment are at risk of serious injury and death.

WORKERS *should take the following steps to protect themselves from injury when operating or working near compacting and baling equipment*:

- Never bypass or disable interlocks or control switches.

- Keep all equipment guards in place during operation.

- Before attempting to clear jammed material from a compactor or baler, follow OSHA standards on lockout/tagout procedures [29 CFR 1910.147]:

  1. Disconnect the power from the machine.

  2. Isolate the power by locking the disconnect.

  3. Tag the disconnect to notify others that the power must remain off.

  4. Mechanically block any ram that has the potential to move before accessing the compacting chamber.

  5. Test equipment to ensure power has been de-energized before beginning work.

  6. Locate all coworkers before activating power to the compactor or baler.

EMPLOYERS *should take the following steps to reduce the risk of worker injuries and deaths:*

- Establish procedures for periodic inspection and maintenance of the equipment:

1. Maintain equipment guards according to the manufacturer's specifications.

2. Check for proper operation of all interlocks and emergency stop devices.

- Train workers to recognize compactor and baler hazards.

- Implement standard procedures for dealing safely with material jams.

- Provide safe access to feed chutes for clearing material jams.

- Comply with child labor laws that prohibit hazardous work by workers under age 18.

NO OPERATORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

STOP

For more information about child labor laws, call your local Wage and Hour office of the U.S. Department of Labor.

For additional information, see **NIOSH Alert: Preventing Deaths and Injuries While Compacting or Baling Refuse Material** [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2003–124]. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

NIOSH—Publications Dissemination
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226–1998

Telephone: 1–800–35–NIOSH (1–800–356–4674)
Fax: 513–533–8573
E-mail: pubstaft@cdc.gov

or visit the NIOSH Web site at www.cdc.gov/niosh

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