

TOOL BOX TALKS

Dumpster Safety

Dumpsters are in use at almost every commercial property or construction jobsite. All kinds of waste are discarded into dumpsters including metal, wood and plastics. Dumpsters are a repository for stolen items, hazardous materials, sharp objects and other hazardous items. Construction workers, warehouse employees and even wives and children use dumpsters every day. Review the safety concerns listed below when working around dumpsters.

WORKSAFE TIPS

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Wear gloves when placing waste into dumpsters

Wear eye protection when placing waste into dumpsters – wind can pick up dusts & particles

PREVENTING STRAINS & INJURY

Never over-fill trash bags or waste containers

Team lift heavy objects or waste containers

Avoid lifting waste bags or containers overhead – use a smaller dumpster, open the dumpster door or build a platform to elevate workers and reduce lifting exertion

Never “throw” trash waste – avoid shoulder injury

Break down odd-shaped waste as to prevent awkward positions that could lead to strain

Never “yank” or “kick” a dumpster door

Use both hands when flipping open dumpster lids

WASTE COLLECTION TIPS

Remember that waste in dumpsters is sharp, and can cause lacerations and puncture wounds

Never overload dumpsters – fill only to the top

Load dumpster containers evenly

Stay clear of dumpsters being lifted & emptied

Never dump chemicals or hazardous materials or biomedical waste in dumpsters

BEST PRACTICES

Don't smoke around dumpsters

Keep a fire extinguisher near dumpsters

Avoid placing hazardous materials in dumpster – refer to local waste regulations

When purchasing waste cans consider designs with large, easy-to-grip handles

Replace cans with damaged/missing handles or wheels

Use smaller waste cans/bags as their loaded weight is much less than larger cans.

Use a step ladder and pole to shift & move waste around in dumpsters.

Never stand atop or jump on waste inside a dumpster

Keep dumpsters in a secure, well-lit location to prevent arson and trespassers

Maintain dumpsters with lids and doors closed to prevent theft, arson and litter

Use two or three people to move rolling dumpsters

Stand clear when dumpsters are unloaded

Use caution around moving refuse trucks

Report damage to the collection company

Keep the area around dumpsters clear of trip hazards

Clear dumpster areas of snow and ice – prevent falls

Never position roll-off dumpsters beneath power lines – the truck lifting mechanism may contact

WorkSAFE

Smart, Accident-Free Environments

Tool Box Talk

Date of Discussion _____

Instructor _____

Attendees:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
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Follow-up Items
