

LOCKOUT! LOCKOUT! LOCKOUT!

According to a March 18th News Release, OSHA has cited a New Jersey scrap recycler with one repeat and three serious safety violations after a worker's fingers were amputated at the company's recycling transfer station. OSHA's investigation was initiated in response to a referral by the local Police Department and has resulted in proposed fines of \$70,070.

"This incident should have been prevented by simply locking out the machine's power source," said the director of OSHA's Area Office.

OSHA inspectors found that procedures were not used to lock out the energy source of a conveyor belt system while the worker was clearing a cardboard jam, which resulted in the amputation. OSHA cited the company with a serious violation for failing to implement a lockout/tagout program to control potentially hazardous energy. Another violation includes failing to ensure a ladder placed with the two top rails was supported and placed with secure footing. A serious violation occurs when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known.

The repeat violation was cited for exposing workers to 8-foot fall hazards while working on unguarded platforms. A repeat violation is issued when an employer previously has been cited for the same or similar violation of a standard, regulation, rule or order at any other facility in federal enforcements states within the last five years. A similar violation was cited in 2009 and 2010.

Do you have a LOCKOUT procedure for your equipment?

If not, figure it out and write it down.

Are you USING it?

Are you SURE?

Don't assume. Go out and watch your workers USE LOCKOUT.

If they're not, do something about it!