

LONE WORKERS

Too many people in our industry have been killed or maimed by being pulled into a machine or conveyor and chewed up. There are systems available, used by some recyclers that can help provide a greater level of safety to workers who sometimes work alone.

One type is a small device worn by the worker, sometimes secured inside a pocket on a high-visibility vest. This device sends a radio signal to the machine to stop when it comes within range of the receiver. Other systems use pendants that can be worn inside the shirt. Some attach to the belt.

It is sometimes said, "Well, we never have anybody working alone."
Or, "We have a buddy system. We always work in pairs."

While this may be true much of the time in some operations, many workers end up working alone when their buddy calls off sick or goes on vacation. In lean times, the few are sometimes doing more with less.

The benefits of these systems far outweigh the costs. Is such a system right for your operation?

What's a life worth?

Safely—or Not At All.

Produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
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