

WORKER CRUSHED TO DEATH IN SCRAP YARD

Sadly, this was the headline just days ago after a scrap yard worker was killed after being run over by a material-handling crane. The news release stated “either the victim didn’t see the equipment operator, or the operator didn’t see the victim.” Unfortunately, either way the man is still dead.

This scenario plays out all too often in our industry. What can we do to put a stop to it? Let’s take a long hard look at our own operations. Spend some time—yes, real time—just observing your processes. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Are workers or customers EVER in a location where they could be injured in my operation?
 - a. If the answer to 1. Is “Yes”, then how can I change my practices to ELIMINATE this risk?
 - b. For instance, can block walls be installed to segregate retail and industrial customers?
2. Are there blind spots in my operation for pedestrians and/or mobile equipment operators?
 - a. If so, have I installed mirrors at blind corners, and located them in such a way that they are not knocked off by moving equipment?
 - b. Have I considered installing back up cameras on mobile equipment?
 - c. Does every piece of mobile equipment I own have a WORKING backup alarm?
3. Have my operators and ground workers been trained to recognize and avoid at-risk areas in my operation in terms of pedestrian and equipment movement? Has this training been documented? Are my workers REALLY practicing safe work habits in these areas?
4. Do ground workers wear high-visibility clothing to help make them more visible to operators? Are these articles of clothing still hi-vis, or are they so dirty that they lost their hi-vis qualities a long time ago? Do loose-fitting vests present hazards of their own in my operation, such as getting caught in conveyors?

There’s no substitute for making the TIME to honestly evaluate your operation to make sure this never happens again.

SAFELY—OR NOT AT ALL.

Produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
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Comments/questions?
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