

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE SAFETY PROCEDURES

Operations performed by Solid Waste employees include trash removal, recycling, and compost removal. These tasks are physically labor-intensive. Therefore, extreme safety precautions must be followed at all times. The following safety items must be worn when performing the tasks mentioned above:

- ◆ hearing protection,
- ◆ eye goggles,
- ◆ leather gloves,
- ◆ back belts,
- ◆ coveralls,
- ◆ steel-toed boots/shoes.

There are variable safety risks when working with solid waste. These concerns include:

- ◆ different types of materials being handled,
- ◆ heavy lifting,
- ◆ truck maintenance,
- ◆ driving on and off campus.

MATERIAL HANDLING

Although solid waste is usually contained, there is still direct physical contact with materials at times. The biggest problem is not knowing what type of materials might be in containers. Bagged trash collection involves potential physical contact when the bags are not tied correctly or the bags have holes, causing the material to spill or leak. Current collection procedures for recyclables involve extensive physical contact with materials. Employees must manually remove materials such as newspaper, glass, plastic, aluminum, and office paper from the containers. Contaminants like trash or broken glass can inadvertently get mixed in with recyclables. These are found only when physical contact is made with the material.

There is also physical contact with material inside the trash truck itself. The back of the truck must be cleaned out at the landfill and washed thoroughly once a week. Both tasks involve getting inside the back of the truck where all the trash is dumped. Obviously, there is much physical contact with material here. In addition to the safety equipment listed above, face shields and Tyvek body suits are also provided to decrease physical contact with contamination. Blood-borne pathogen training and right-to-know training are mandatory requirements for all employees working around potentially harmful materials.

FLUORESCENT TUBE CRUSHING

To ensure the safety of all Integrated Solid Waste employees must follow safety guidelines for crushing fluorescent tubes. The following items must be worn when performing the task mentioned above.

- ◆ Eye goggles
- ◆ Custom fit half mask respirator
- ◆ Leather gloves
- ◆ Steel-toed boots/shoes

Before operating this machine employees must go through training presented by the Integrated Solid Waste Program Manager. The machine crushes the tubes into a 55-gallon barrel. When the barrel is full the machine must be unbolted and moved to an empty 55-gallon barrel.

Each time the machine is moved to the next barrel:

- ◆ The chain must be inspected for breakage
- ◆ The machine must be bolted in place on the empty 55-gallon barrel.
- ◆ A lid must be placed on the full barrel and be bolted in place. Date filled must be noted on the date started date filled label.
- ◆ A date started and date filled label must be placed on the lid of each new barrel when it is started
- ◆ The bag filter must be changed and date noted on the inspection sheet for each barrel.
- ◆ After five to ten barrels have been filled the hepa filter must be changed and date noted on inspection sheet.
- ◆ When moving full barrels the barrel mover dolly must be used.
- ◆ A Universal Waste label must be put onto the filled barrel.

LIFTING

Solid waste employees are constantly lifting heavy containers and bags of trash throughout the day. Repetitive motion injuries and back injuries are major safety concerns with Solid Waste employees. Proper lifting techniques must be adhered to in performing the tasks required to prevent these injuries. See the GENERAL WORK RULES/LIFTING, CARRYING, HANDLING section of this manual. In addition, there are several pieces of equipment available to aid with lifting:

- ◆ hydraulic lift gate,
- ◆ back belts,
- ◆ two-wheel dolly,
- ◆ rolling carts.

TRUCK MAINTENANCE

Truck maintenance is important to perform on all Solid Waste vehicles to ensure safety of the vehicle. The Department of Transportation requires vehicle inspections be done on all vehicles over 26,000 tons gross vehicle weight. The trash truck is the only Solid Waste vehicle affected by this mandate. However, all Solid Waste vehicles are inspected on a regular basis to guarantee safe operating conditions. All Solid Waste employees must attend CDL (Commercial Drivers License) training although all employees do not receive a CDL. This training provides instruction on how to perform vehicle inspections. In addition, all Solid Waste employees view safe-driving videos periodically.

SAFE DRIVING ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Another safety concern involves driving on and off campus. All Solid Waste employees are responsible for being defensive drivers. There are several factors to consider while driving on campus:

- ◆ the speed limit is only 20 mph;
- ◆ there are always pedestrians and bicyclists to be aware of especially when backing up;
- ◆ the weight of the trucks and driving conditions change as more material is collected
- ◆ particular attention must be paid to overhead obstacles and building overhangs;
- ◆ be extremely careful and alert when backing your vehicle.

All Solid Waste trash trucks must make several trips each day to the Larimer County Landfill and Recycling Facility. Traveling off campus requires defensive driving skills as well. All traffic rules, regulations, and laws must be obeyed when driving off campus.