



HARVARD

Campus Services

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY &
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Date: 10/8/09

Toolbox Talk #26

DUMPSTER SAFETY

Dumpster Safety

- Clean area around dumpster; ensure no tripping hazards are present and individuals have sufficient access to dispose of trash
- Never move or compress trash in the dumpster with your hands or feet
- Never enter a dumpster
- Use caution when opening or closing lids, watch for hand placement and pinch points. (Be especially cautious on windy days)
- Do not try to fight a dumpster fire – notify the fire department
- Dispose of food waste in sealed trash bags
- Cambridge and Boston ordinances require lids to be securely closed
- Do not dispose of hazardous materials in solid waste dumpsters
- Notify building management if you find animals or pests in a dumpster

Hydraulic Trash Compactor Safety

- Only use the compactor if you have been shown how to safely operate the equipment by a competent person
- Never place any body part past the threshold of the hopper
- If an item must be moved inside the compactor, use a long stick
- Ensure the door is securely closed before operating the controls
- Run the compactor through a full cycle, never open the door while the compactor is running
- Never enter the compactor to retrieve an object or to perform maintenance
- Consult with the manufacturer if the compactor needs to be serviced
- Restrict access to the compactor to authorized individuals only

Trash and Recycle Truck Safety

- Pedestrians stand clear of all trash and recycle trucks while they are lifting dumpsters or recycle bins
- Truck operators must wear PPE: leather work shoes, gloves, safety glasses
- Drive safely and pay attention to pedestrians, park in safe locations
- When lifting dumpsters or bins into the truck ensure no pedestrians are in the immediate area
- Operators must stay at the controls while operating hydraulic controls
- Inspect the bins and dumpsters you are going to be lifting, do not lift broken bins or dumpsters
- Never climb inside the back of the truck
- If it is necessary to enter the truck, follow correct lockout-tagout procedures
- Ensure safe clearance between truck and overhead power lines, bridges, overpasses, garages etc.
- Do not drive with truck bed raised
- Do not raise truck bed when overhead hazards/power lines are present



Ensure area around dumpster is clean, keep lid closed and secured



Never reach inside the hopper of a compactor, use a long stick if needed

Environmental Health, Safety & Emergency Management

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