SAFETY / ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLBOX TRAINING – DUMPSTER SAFETY

SUPERVISOR INSTRUCTIONS:

- Use toolbox trainings to encourage safety / environmental discussions during monthly meetings with employees
- Submit the employee sign-in sheet to your designated administrative assistant / training coordinator as a record of training

Dumpsters and trash compactors have many hazards associated with them that you might not think about. Electrical, crushing, puncture, trip/fall, and chemical hazards are just some examples of risks that employees could face when working around this equipment. Additionally, these dangers are often not visible from the outside. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the hazards and work cautiously when loading items into a dumpster or compactor.

**Trash Compactor Safety**

- Only trained personnel should operate the equipment.
- Never place any body part past the threshold of the hopper.
- If an item inside the compactor needs to be moved, use a long stick.
- Ensure the door(s) is securely closed before operating.
- Never open the door while a compactor is running.
- Service/maintenance should only be performed by the manufacturer or competent person.
- Follow lockout-tagout (LOTO) procedures before performing any maintenance activities.
What are the hazards in the following pictures?

1.) Leaning into a dumpster presents a fall hazard.
2.) Debris strewn around dumpster. Creates a trip hazard and could indicate the presence of an animal.
3.) Overfull dumpster. Items could shift and fall on bystanders.
4.) Sharps containers in dumpster suggest hazardous materials are being disposed of improperly.
5.) Smoke suggests items in the dumpster could be on fire.
6.) Personal inside a compactor. Locked out/tagged out? Why is he wearing a respirator?

Answers:
1) 3) 2) 5) 6)
1) You need to put a large piece of equipment into a dumpster, but it is full. You think you can make more space if you shift some items around. Is it safe to climb in?
   ❖ No, it is never safe to climb into a dumpster. If there is no room, try to find another dumpster on campus that can accommodate the equipment you need to throw away. Another option is to attempt to shift items from the outside of the dumpster using a pole or other utensil.

2) True or False. It is ok to smoke next to a dumpster as long as the contents are not flammable.
   ❖ False. Do not smoke near a dumpster. You never can be sure what is inside a dumpster, there might be flammable or hazardous items inside that you don’t see. And remember, Emory is a non-smoking facility.

3) As you are loading waste into a compacting dumpster, your keys fall into the dumpster. You can reach them if you stretch. What should you do to safely retrieve them?
   ❖ Follow lockout/Tagout procedures to de-energize the compactor.
   ❖ Contact your supervisor or a coworker to assist you.

PHOTO CREDITS

Dumpster Sign  http://www.amazon.com/Warning-Safety-Dumpster-Responsible-Personal/dp/B009B0VHYA
Recycling Container  http://facilities.fit.edu/recycling%20containers.php
Horizontal Compactor  http://surface.facilities.unc.edu/OWRRGuidelines/?Topic=Horizontal
Debris Around Dumpster http://www.aspenpitkin.com/Departments/Policie/Aspen-Bears/Ordinances/
Overfull Dumpster http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/the_fixer/2011/05/03/the_fixer_overflowing_dumpster_trashes_public_housing.html
Man in Compactor http://chicago.cbslocal.com/tag/mai-martinez/feed/
Smoking Dumpster http://www.rontravel.com/Travel_Photo_Pages/Pictures_Uganda_Happy_Cannibal.htm