

This advisory is part of an OSHA Program for Transfer Stations, Administrator Training, Session 5, Compactors. The link to Session 5 materials is available on the MIIA website.

MIIA RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY

STATIONARY COMPACTORS and SITE SAFETY AT TRANSFER STATIONS

Hazards - Severe fall, crushing, and caught between hazards are posed when employees or contractors:

- Feed materials into compactor.
- Attempt to clear jams and retrieve items that fell in.
- Clean, repair, or maintain compactor.
- Attempt to use the compactor opening with unprotected edges.



Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) – A NIOSH report of *20 Compactor Related Fatalities* found that victims had either reached or fell into the compression chamber, and were **crushed** in the compacting chamber, or suffered amputation from being **caught between** the ram and the compacting chamber walls.

These fatal incidents illustrate a lack of policy, administrative controls, and work practices to prohibit entering the compactor as the victims had been clearing a jam or were attempting to retrieve material. Other cases illustrate a lack of Lock-Out/Tag-Out and Permit Required Confined Space Programs as the machine cycled automatically when victim entered compacting chamber, and when coworkers activated compactor without knowing a worker was inside.

Risk Reduction Strategy Recommendations:

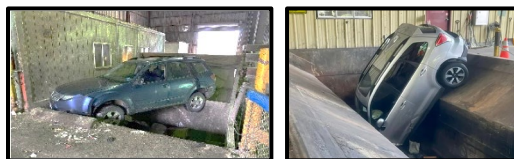
- Prohibit bypassing the interlock on compactors and operating them with the doors open.
- Prohibit entry into the compactor for any reason, unless trained and authorized to do so:
 - ✓ Post a *Permit Required Confined Space* sign near the compactor(s).
 - ✓ Require contractors to have a *Lock-Out/Tag-Out (LO/TO) Program* or implement a *LO/TO Program* for all work requiring deenergizing the compactor.
 - ✓ Provide tools, protocols, and training for retrieving items and clearing jams without entering the compactor.
 - ✓ Provide guardrails for each type of unprotected openings:



Per OSHA specifications for access to the compactor by pedestrians.



Per OSHA specifications to resist a vehicle for breaching compactor openings by vehicles.



Site Safety

- Hazards - people have been hit due to inadequate visibility and lack of traffic and site controls on a site with moving vehicles and pedestrian and employee foot traffic.
- Risk Reduction - provide speed limits, signage, traffic control devices (e.g. cones, barriers), pavement markings, etc. for traffic control, and adequate lighting and high visibility vests for employee visibility.