

Conveyor Safety

Find a way to cut down on the amount of scrap materials you handle manually, and you've got a good thing going. You lessen the chances of hurting backs and hands, which are two of the more common types of injuries in the scrap industry. In addition, your capacity for work will increase, and so will production.

That's why conveyors are widely used. They move materials efficiently and safely. They are a great tool to get scrap processed and out the gate.

Like other things we work with, conveyors are safe when used correctly. They're not a means of human transportation or a plaything. Certain safety precautions must be taken even if you don't work directly with conveyors. For instance, don't crawl over or under them. This is pretty basic safety advice, but there are still many people who have tried it and get injured in the process.

Unless your job requires it, stay away from conveyors. Don't attempt to operate a conveyor unless you've been checked out on the procedures and are authorized to run it. If you work on or about a conveyor you should know the location and operation of stopping devices. If you don't, ask a supervisor.

Never ride a conveyor. It is difficult enough going through life trying to avoid injuries. Don't make it harder by trying this stunt.

Don't attempt to clean any belts or parts while the conveyor is running. If it's necessary to clean belts or drums while the equipment is in motion, proper barrier guards should be provided at pinch points.

Conveyors should be stopped and controls locked out when repairs are being made, and the equipment shouldn't be started again until it is certain that all is clear.

The fact that conveyors run steadily and smoothly may lull you into a false sense of security when you're around them. Don't fall into this trap. Conveyors can be dangerous. Loose clothing and jewelry are dangerous to wear on the job. Combine them with the presence of a conveyor and the hazard potential increases quickly.

Observe basic safety rules and report unsafe conditions or malfunctions to your supervisor. These steps will go a long way toward eliminating hazards and protecting your ability to earn a living.