A “blind spot” is any area that a driver can’t see by looking around or by using his or her mirrors, and they can be a big problem in the recycling processing operations. Blind spots are caused by the way the equipment has been designed to get the work done. In the example, the shadowed areas around each piece of equipment represent a blind spot. If someone or something is in this area, it will be invisible to the driver or operator.

It is just as important for scrap yard workers to understand the nature of blind spots as it is for truck and equipment operators to understand them – maybe even more important. Remember that if you can’t see the driver’s eyes, he can’t see you, and you should never approach operating mobile equipment unless and until you have the driver’s attention.

When it comes to working safely around equipment, understanding blind spots is everyone’s responsibility.