

### For Your Safety: Slips, Trips, and Falls

Slips, trips, and falls are some of the most common and most costly types of accidents in the recycling industry. In most cases, the accident could have been avoided with better housekeeping and maintenance. Here's how you can play a role in making your operation safer:

- **Housekeeping is everyone's job.** Keeping a facility organized is an ongoing battle. Do your part by picking up trip hazards in walking areas.
- **Look for slick spots.** Grip tape and traction mats wear out quickly on mobile equipment. When slippery metal starts to shine through, get the traction material replaced as soon as possible.
- **Report broken equipment.** Ladders and stairs are frequently damaged from being struck by mobile equipment or scrap. Report damage before someone gets hurt.
- **Clean up spills.** If your material handler is leaking fluid, fix it. If it can't be fixed right away, make sure it gets cleaned up. Don't ignore fluid spills.

### For Your Health: Can Being Angry Make You Sick?

According to scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, chronic anger may weaken the immune system and cause other health issues. The study showed that anger increases production of the body's stress hormone which often leads to overeating, smoking, and drinking. What should you do? Find productive ways to relieve stress and anger to stay healthy.

### For Your Information: Think Safety Is Expensive?

If you think safety is an unnecessary expense, take a look at what one company was recently fined by OSHA for willful safety violations in its plant. This was not a recycling facility, but these safety issues are very common in our industry.

- Four instances of lack of point-of-operation machine guarding; penalty was \$63,000 for each unguarded machine, totaling \$252,000.
- Insufficient housekeeping, aisle space; penalty, \$63,000.
- Lack of audiometric testing; penalty, \$36,000.
- Lack of lockout training; penalty, \$63,000.
- Lockout/ tagout not performed; penalty \$63,000.
- Lack of powered industrial truck operations training; penalty, \$63,000.
- Lack of abrasive wheel grinder guarding; penalty, \$63,000.
- Compressed air used for cleaning was not reduced to less than 30 pounds per square inch; \$49,500.
- No chemical hazard communication training; penalty, \$49,500.

**Total Proposed Penalties for Willful Violations: \$702,000**

These are proposed fines that will most likely be reduced, but think about how much scrap you would need to process to pay a \$700,000 OSHA Fine.

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