

For Your Safety: Working Safely Around Loading Docks

Most scrap yards have loading docks. Whether they are part of the building or freestanding in the yard, they are essential to getting material into the truck and out the gate. Because of their height, loading docks can create safety hazards if precautions are not taken. Every year employees are injured and loading equipment is damaged by accidentally backing off loading docks or falling out of unchocked trailers. As part of keeping the loading and unloading process safe, remember the follow items when working around loading docks:

Dock Safety

- If there is no trailer in the bay, make sure a safety chain is strung across the drop-off. It's also a good idea to paint edge of the dock with bright colored paint to warn forklift drivers.
- Do not store materials near the dock edge where they could be easily knocked off.
- If the loading dock is in a heavy traffic area, it's a good idea to install convex mirrors to get rid of blind spots.

Forklift Safety

- Wearing a seatbelt while driving a forklift is always important, but wearing one around an elevated loading dock is most important. If your truck goes off the edge of the dock you want to be secured in the truck so it can't fall on you. The chance of jumping clear of a falling forklift is almost zero.
- Keep your forks and load as low as possible when loading.
- Inspect the forklift to regularly ensure that it is functioning properly
- Never operate a forklift without proper training.

Trailer Safety

- Always place chocks in front of trailer wheels while loading.
- Make sure the emergency brake is set.
- Never assume that someone else set the brake or chocked the wheels. Your life could depend on it.

This e-mail was produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. For more information, visit us on the Web at www.ISRI.org
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