

USING AND MAINTAINING A GARBAGE OR CARDBOARD COMPACTOR



Compactors can present both mechanical and electrical hazards.

Mechanical Hazards

Details

Workers can be trapped by the plunger arm.

Threat

- Serious injury or death
- Amputation

Safe Work Guidelines

- Before you operate the compactor, make sure that you have received proper training
- Conduct a pre-use inspection to ensure that everything is working properly – interlock devices are in place and working
- Hydraulic lines are not leaking hydraulic fluid, etc.
- Never operate equipment if safety features are not working or bypassed

- Do not climb into a compactor to pack down the garbage to make more room
- Follow the manufacturer's recommended preventive maintenance schedule
- Never place hands and arms or climb into compactor. Long handled hooks and rods may be used to clear jams, but only when compactor is de-energized
- Report any defects in the equipment to your manager or supervisor immediately

Electrocution

Details

Working with a compactor may expose you to live electrical wires.

Threat

- Serious injury
- Death

Safe Work Guidelines

- Follow the manufacturer's recommended operating procedures and preventive maintenance schedule
- Ensure that a thorough inspection is conducted on the machinery for both electrical and mechanical hazards, based on your workplace's procedures and policies
- Check all wiring regularly to make sure that no electrical wiring is exposed or fraying
- Electrical control boxes should be kept closed and secured at all times

- Connect the compactor's wiring to an outlet with a ground fault interrupter or wired by a knowledgeable electrician
- Make sure that the area around the compactor is dry and has no spilled fluids
- Report any defects in the equipment to your manager or supervisor immediately

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