VERTICAL BALER

A baler is a machine which compresses material into a small bundle and then ties the bundle with wire or strapping for secure transportation and handling. The most common materials compressed include cardboard, plastic P.E.T. bottles, aluminum cans and siding.

Hazards Involved/Arise

- Pinch points/crushed fingers (swing door, vertical door, vertical slots behind baler)
- Eye hazards (dust and debris)
- Cuts
- Struck by ejecting bale
- Bale wire cuts/eye injury
- Noise from cracking or materials breaking in compacting cycle

People Affected

- Equipment operator
- Maintenance employees
- Employees working in area

Existing Controls

- Proper training on equipment
- Limited access to back of baler
- Safety Switch - prevents automatic baler operation unless the door is fully closed and locked
- Lockout/Tagout of defective equipment
- Use appropriate amount of wire that is the proper gauge
- Wear proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, protective eyewear and hearing protection

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