



## SAFETY / ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLBOX TRAINING – DUMPSTER SAFETY

### SUPERVISOR INSTRUCTIONS:

- Use toolbox trainings to encourage safety / environmental discussions during monthly meetings with employees
- Submit the employee sign-in sheet to your designated administrative assistant /training coordinator as a record of training



Dumpsters and trash compactors have many hazards associated with them that you might not think about. Electrical, crushing, puncture, trip/fall, and chemical hazards are just some examples of risks that employees could face when working around this equipment. Additionally, these dangers are often not visible from the outside. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the hazards and work cautiously when loading items into a dumpster or compactor.

### Dumpster Safety Basics

- Keep the area around the dumpster clean and free of clutter.
- Never move items inside a dumpster with your hands or feet.
- Never enter a dumpster.
- Do not try to fight a dumpster fire, call the fire department.
- Do not dispose of hazardous waste in solid waste dumpsters.
- Notify your supervisor if you see signs of animals or pests in a dumpster.
- Use caution when opening or closing lids, be aware of pinch points and where you place your hands.



### Trash Compactor Safety



- Only trained personnel should operate the equipment.
- Never place any body part past the threshold of the hopper.
- If an item inside the compactor needs to be moved, use a long stick.
- Ensure the door(s) is securely closed before operating.
- Never open the door while a compactor is running.
- Service/maintenance should only be performed by the manufacturer or competent person.
- Follow lockout-tagout (LOTO) procedures before performing any maintenance activities.

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## Dumpster Hazards

What are the hazards in the following pictures?



- Answers:
- 1.) Leaning into a dumpster presents a fall hazard.
  - 2.) Debris strewn around dumpster. Creates a trip hazard, and could indicate the presence of an animal.
  - 3.) Overfull dumpster. Items could shift and fall on bystanders.
  - 4.) Personnel inside a compactor. Locked out/tagged out? Why is he wearing a respirator?
  - 5.) Sharps containers in dumpster suggests Biohazardous materials are being disposed of improperly.
  - 6.) Smoke suggests items in the dumpster could be on fire.

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### Questions for Discussion

- 1) **You need to put a large piece of equipment into a dumpster, but it is full. You think you can make more space if you shift some items around. Is it safe to climb in?**
  - ❖ No, it is never safe to climb into a dumpster. If there is no room, try to find another dumpster on campus that can accommodate the equipment you need to throw away. Another option is to attempt to shift items from the outside of the dumpster using a pole or other utensil.
- 2) **True or False. It is ok to smoke next to a dumpster as long as the contents are not flammable.**
  - ❖ False. Do not smoke near a dumpster. You never can be sure what is inside a dumpster, there might be flammable or hazardous items inside that you don't see. And remember, Emory is a non-smoking facility.
- 3) **As you are loading waste into a compacting dumpster, your keys fall into the dumpster. You can reach them if you stretch. What should you do to safely retrieve them?**
  - ❖ Follow lockout/Tagout procedures to de-energize the compactor.
  - ❖ Contact your supervisor or a coworker to assist you.

### PHOTO CREDITS

Dumpster Sign <http://www.amazon.com/Warning-Safety-Dumpster-Responsible-Personal/dp/B009B0YHYA>  
Recycling Container <http://facilities.fit.edu/recycling%20containers.php>  
Horizontal Compactor <http://surface.facilities.unc.edu/OWRRGuidelines/?Topic=Horizontal>  
Dumpster Diving <http://ehgazette.blogs.brynmawr.edu/2009/11/27/diving-for-donuts/>  
Debris Around Dumpster <http://www.aspenpitkin.com/Departments/Police/Aspen-Bears/Ordinances/>  
Overfull Dumpster [http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/the\\_fixer/2011/05/03/the\\_fixer\\_overflowing\\_dumpster\\_trashes\\_public\\_housing.html](http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/the_fixer/2011/05/03/the_fixer_overflowing_dumpster_trashes_public_housing.html)  
Man in Compactor <http://chicago.cbslocal.com/tag/mai-martinez/feed/>  
Sharps in Dumpster <http://www.wtrf.com/story/23403520/needles-medical-waste-found-in-south-wheeling-dumpster>  
Smoking Dumpster [http://www.rontravel.com/Travel\\_Photo\\_Pages/Pictures\\_Uganda\\_Happy\\_Cannibal.htm](http://www.rontravel.com/Travel_Photo_Pages/Pictures_Uganda_Happy_Cannibal.htm)