

2.4 REFUSE COLLECTION SAFETY

Catastrophic Risks

The greatest catastrophes associated with refuse collection are:

- ?? Fires
- ?? Blood borne pathogens
- ?? Chemical contamination

Common Hazards

Most frequently reported accidents include:

- ?? Slips/trips/falls involving spilled liquids, ice/snow/rain, foreign objects or electrical cords across path
- ?? Struck by/against dumpster, furniture and equipment
- ?? Cuts from broken glass, metal and plastic
- ?? Back injuries from moving heavy objects, and improper lifting techniques
- ?? Chemical burns from improper disposal, and improper handling of cleaning fluids
- ?? Crushing by dumpster covers and doors

Accident Prevention

To minimize the potential for accidents occurring with refuse collection these procedures should be followed:

- ?? All school community staff should review the "Refuse Collection Safety Rules" and be aware of procedures for disposal of hazardous materials such as blood borne pathogens and hazardous chemical waste and sign the form. This signed form should be forwarded to the School Personnel Office.
- ?? A formal documented inspection should be completed monthly using a checklist developed by the maintenance/custodial staff. A sample checklist is provided as a guideline. Completed inspection checklists should be maintained for a period of three years.
- ?? The Checklist is intended to address physical conditions, work practices of personnel assigned to refuse collection, and associated risks. The Checklist is a minimum guideline and is based on general conditions for refuse collection. This checklist should be modified to meet your own needs.

General

1. Wastebaskets should be in good condition and metal.
2. Metal wastebaskets should be used in washrooms, laboratories, classrooms, offices, shops, and locker rooms. Metal covers/lids should be used where appropriate.
3. To avoid injury by flying glass, lumber, and exploding aerosols, etc., keep the trash collection area clear while the truck is emptying the dumpster.
4. Keep all dumpster doors/covers closed or locked when not in use.
5. Prohibit employees/students from entering dumpsters.
6. Use caution to protect against flying glass when disposing of light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, etc.
7. Wear approved gloves, leather palm guards, and safety glasses.
8. Test loads for weight before lifting; get help or use mechanical lifting devices on loads which are too heavy for one person; use proper lifting techniques.
9. Keep wheels on trash carts in good repair.
10. Dispose of chemicals properly - per MSDS.
11. Pest control spraying should be conducted following pesticide manufacturers' Material Safety Data Sheet guidelines.
12. Students/teachers should be instructed where to dispose of broken glass, aerosols, chemicals, sharp metal objects, etc., properly.
13. Review Blood Borne Pathogen guidelines in the appendix of this manual.
14. Institute a spill clean-up program.
15. Maintain sufficient trash receptacles for the disposal of litter/trash.
16. Trash should be removed at the end of each day for pest control.
17. Use U.L. listed covered metal trash receptacles for oily and paint soaked waste.
18. Trash Compactor equipment will be operated only by authorized persons

Signature

Date

REFUSE COLLECTION SAFETY INSPECTION (sample)

SCHOOL _____

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Are wastebaskets in good condition? | Yes | No |
| 2. Are all dumpster doors/covers closed/locked when not in use? | Yes | No |
| 3. Are proper gloves, leather palm guards and safety glasses worn? | Yes | No |
| 4. Are proper handling techniques utilized (mechanical lifting devices, two-person lift, etc.)? | Yes | No |
| 5. Are wheels on trash carts in good repair? | Yes | No |
| 6. Are chemicals disposed of properly - MSDS? | Yes | No |
| 7. Is approved pest control spraying done well before school opens? | Yes | No |
| 8. Are students/staff instructed to dispose of broken glass, aerosols, chemicals, sharp metal objects, etc. properly? | Yes | No |
| 9. Is a spill cleanup program in place? | Yes | No |
| 10. Is trash removed at the end of each day for pest control? | Yes | No |
| 11. Are approved waste cans used for oily and paint soaked waste? | Yes | No |
| 12. Is trash compactor equipment properly maintained with safety items in place. | Yes | No |
| 13. Have all staff/students reviewed the "Refuse Collection Safety Rules" and Blood Borne Pathogen guidelines? | Yes | No |
| 14. Are dumpsters placed away from traffic and any student activity areas? | Yes | No |
| 15. If No's are checked, follow-up is needed. The principal should designate the appropriate corrective action, such as a work order. | | |