

Falls in the Waste Management Industry



Over 100 workers were seriously injured from falls at same level (slips, trips & falls) in the years 2000 to 2004 resulting in over 12,000 days off work.



Moving conveyor and debris creates a constant tripping hazard.

The injuries from these accidents were so serious, the workers had to take time off from work or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the average base rate of \$2.24 per hour per employee paid by employers in the waste management industry. A waste management company with five full-time employees with an average rate of injuries (claims) would pay approximately \$22,400 in premiums in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries, your “experience rating” could increase by 25% and your premiums would increase to \$2.91 per hour per employee. In a year, that would be an increase of \$6,700 to \$29,100 for five full time employees.

Causes of Falls

Common causes of falls are:

- Workers slipping on liquids, rotten fruits and vegetables or other slick items
- Workers tripping on debris
- Workers walking on uneven ground
- Over reaching



Surface is slick with liquids rotten perishables.

Ways to prevent fall injuries

- Keep areas where workers walk free of debris and slipping hazards
- Use absorbent materials on liquid spills
- Use the three-point mount/dismount when entering and exiting vehicles
- Wear footwear with non-slip soles
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Don't walk with items in your hands that block or limit your view
- Notify supervisors and other workers of potential slipping or tripping hazards
- Make sure you have proper lighting
- Practice good housekeeping