

November 2022

## Retail safety — Customer ‘struck by’ and ‘caught between’ accidents

Customer “struck by” and “caught between” accidents are an unfortunate reality. “Struck by” incidents are caused by falling, moving, swinging, or misplaced objects such as moving vehicles in the parking lot, uncontrolled shopping carts, or falling merchandise and displays. “Caught between” incidents can happen when customers are caught in or between fixtures, collapsing structures, or moving equipment. Keep the following tips in mind to protect both customers and fellow employees from such hazards:

- Ensure that display cases, mirrors, equipment, shelving, and other fixtures are in good condition, with no cracks, chips, or jagged or sharp edges. Also, check that displays do not obstruct aisles and are tall enough so as not to cause a tripping hazard but low enough so as not to risk a tip over or collapse.
- Remove empty boxes, totes, and racks from the sales floor as quickly as possible, and never stack merchandise or boxes. All of these items can pose falling-object hazards to customers and employees alike and could lead to a “struck by” accident.
- Always stack heavy items on the bottom tiers of shelves or displays. If heavier items are stored at the top and lighter items at the bottom, the display or shelf could tip over or collapse on a customer, causing either a “struck by” or a “caught between” accident.
- Display merchandise so that customers can easily reach it and are not tempted to step on a low shelf or the display case, which can cause the shelving or displays to tip or collapse and also lead to “struck by” and “caught between” accidents.

## Skid Steer Loader Safety

A skid steer loader, which is often just called a skid steer or a wheel loader, is a small vehicle that can be used for a variety of construction, landscaping, or other jobs. Because of the hazards they pose, however, you need to learn some important safety precautions before operating or working near skid steers. First and foremost, only operate a skid steer if you are trained and authorized to do so. You should also inspect a skid steer for any safety hazards before operating it. If you notice any issues at all, report them immediately to your supervisor, and don’t operate the vehicle until a qualified person has said it’s safe to do so.

Each time you prepare to use the skid steer, be sure to walk around it and see if it’s ready to safely operate. Follow the equipment manufacturer’s recommended pre-operation inspection guidelines. In general, the following should be included in a prestart inspection:

- Check the tires to make sure they are properly inflated.
- Check the condition of the tracks if the vehicle has them. Check to see if the cab frame or side screens are damaged.
- Check the safety belt and safety bar for damage.
- Make sure the hand grips are intact so that your hands don’t slip while you’re holding on.
- Look at the steps to see if they are clean. If you notice any debris, ice, or mud, clean it off to reduce your chances of a slip and fall.
- Make sure attachments such as buckets, and backhoes are correctly mounted and fastened to the vehicle.
- Check for puddles of liquid under the vehicle, which are a sign of a fluid leak.

After completing the prestart inspection and making sure the skid steer loader is safe to operate, check the following before starting up the vehicle:

- Be aware of your surroundings. Make sure that anyone working in the area is at a safe distance and aware of your presence.
- Also check the area you will be operating the skid steer loader in for any obstacles, like rocks or other debris.
- Fasten your seat belt.
- Lower the safety/restraining bar if the vehicle has one.
- Make sure the controls are in neutral and the parking brake is set.

Now, it’s time to start the engine. Once you do that:

- Test all of the vehicle’s controls and any attachment controls.
- Check the brakes.
- Test the horn and backup alarm if the vehicle has them.

When operating the skid steer loader, bear these general safety rules in mind:

- Follow the safety instructions in the operator’s manual, and don’t take any shortcuts.
- Pay attention to any safety warnings and/or symbols on the skid steer loader itself.
- Never climb out of the vehicle while the engine is running or when the lift arms are raised.
- Always keep your seat belt on when operating the vehicle.
- Don’t rush—take your time and operate the skid steer loader carefully.
- Never operate a skid steer loader if any parts are damaged, defective, or missing.

## Drowsy Driving Prevention Week

Sponsored by the National Sleep Foundation (NSF), Drowsy Driving Prevention Week (DDPW) is held annually on the week following the end of Daylight-Saving Time (DST), which will be November 6–13, 2022. The week is a time to reflect on how dangerously common—but preventable—drowsy driving is. A well-rested driver is the best preventive measure to stop drowsy driving.

Drowsy driving is responsible for more than 6,400 U.S. deaths annually. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that 100,000 police-reported crashes each year are caused primarily by drowsy driving, and those crashes result in more than 71,000 injuries. Fortunately, drowsy driving can be prevented. The NSF's campaign goal is to reduce the number of drivers who drive while sleep deprived.

"Drowsy driving is a public health issue that can affect everyone. NSF encourages all drivers to prioritize sleep and drive only when alert and refreshed," said NSF Chair Lauren Hale, PhD.

The three key steps to take before driving that can help prevent you from falling asleep behind the wheel are:

1. Get the recommended amount of sleep the night before your trip (approximately 7–9 hours).
2. Plan long trips with a companion.
3. Schedule regular stops every 100 miles or 2 hours.

To learn more, you can access resources today on [www.theNSF.org](http://www.theNSF.org). You can also raise awareness about drowsy driving prevention by sharing the campaign's message on your social media using the hashtag #SleepFirst.

## Safe Team Lifting Practices

When two or more workers move a load together, the risk of accidents and injuries increases. Team lifting requires some special lifting rules to make sure everyone involved lifts and moves together as one.

How do you do it?

1. First, you have to plan the lift. Each worker should understand what to do before you begin.
2. One person will lead and give orders to lift, turn, and set down. Everyone must lift and move together.
3. Lift and lower in the same way: You squat down close to the load; get a firm grip; keep your back straight; and lift slowly, using leg power. For setting down, reverse the procedure. Take care to keep fingers and hands from being caught underneath the load.
4. Carry the load without sudden starts or stops. Move slowly and watch where you step.
5. Avoid stairs whenever possible. Use an elevator or a hoist to move loads to different floor levels.
6. Keep the load level and the weight evenly distributed.
7. Long loads should be carried on the same shoulder of each team member. If the object is rigid, you should walk in step.
8. Walking out of step will keep flexible objects from bouncing.
9. Avoid walking backward. If it's necessary, be sure the path is clear, and have someone guide you.

What shouldn't you do?

- Don't twist your body when lifting or carrying.
- Don't lift from one knee.
- Don't change your grip while holding a load.
- Don't step over objects when you are moving.

## Safe Team Lifting Practices: QUIZ

1. When two or more workers move a load together, the risk of accidents and injuries decreases. **TRUE** or **FALSE**
2. You need to plan a lift when moving a load together. **TRUE** or **FALSE**
3. Which of the following are best practices when lifting a load? Choose all that apply.
  - A. Bend over to pick up the load.
  - B. Squat down close to the load to pick it up.
  - C. Lift slowly, using your back.
  - D. Keep your back straight.
4. Which of the following are best practices when carrying a load? Choose all that apply.
  - A. Avoid walking backward.
  - B. Move quickly so you can put the object down quicker.
  - C. Avoid twisting your body.
  - D. Alternate your grip.



### ANSWERS

1. FALSE. 2. TRUE. 3. B. & D. 4. A. & C.

## Hazardous Waste Containers— Proper On-Site Management by Generators: QUIZ

1. Hazardous waste can only be disposed of in a 55-gallon drum or barrel. **TRUE** or **FALSE**
2. Whenever possible, store the waste in the container you ship it in. **TRUE** or **FALSE**
3. Which of the following are best practices for choosing and managing a container? Choose all that apply.
  - A. Put all wastes in the same container.
  - B. Use a container in good condition, meaning no severe dents or rust.
  - C. Make sure the material that lines the container will not negatively react with the hazardous waste being stored.
  - D. Keep containers close together to increase the number of containers you can store.
4. Which of the following are best practices for marking containers? Choose all that apply.
  - A. Clearly mark each container with the date the storage period begins.
  - B. Keep old labels visible on the container.
  - C. Label or clearly mark containers with an indication of the hazards of the contents.
  - D. Put all marks and labels on different sides of the container.



Photo Credit: RachenStocker / Shutterstock.com

## Hazardous Waste Containers—Proper On-Site Management by Generators

A hazardous waste container can be any one of these different types of portable devices: 55-gallon drums and barrels and tanker trucks, railroad cars, small buckets, and test tubes. Not following the hazardous waste container standards is a common mistake, so it's important to know the basics to make sure you're in compliance with the rules.

**Choosing a container.** The container must be suited to the hazardous waste that needs to be stored:

- Keep in mind that certain solvents will dissolve a polyethylene drum and that corrosive waste, such as an acid, can structurally weaken a metal drum.
- Don't put different wastes in the same container if they will negatively react with each other, and don't put waste in an unwashed container that previously held a waste that will negatively react with the waste you are currently putting in.
- Also make sure the material that lines the container will not negatively react with the hazardous waste being stored. Examine the container. Only containers that are in good condition should be used.
- Good condition means no severe dents or rust, especially in the seam areas, which could weaken the container and allow it to leak.
- If you see a waste-filled container that's not in good condition, transfer the waste to a container that is in good condition.
- Whenever possible, store the waste in the container you ship it in. This could be the container the product came in.

**Managing containers.** The container must be closed at all times, except when adding or removing waste:

- A closed container means the snap ring is tightly bolted, the bung is screwed in and capped, and the lid is secured.
- An open funnel is an open container. A funnel that screws into the bung and seals with a spring-loaded hinge is a closed container.

Keep separate all wastes that might react negatively when stored near one another, and be sure to store liquid wastes on sealed surfaces:

- Separate containers of incompatible wastes by a berm, a dike, a wall, or another device.
- Do not place containers of liquid wastes on porous surfaces or floors that have a floor drain.

Make sure containers are easily accessible:

- Maintain enough space between and around containers to make their removal and inspections easier.
- Maintain enough aisle space between rows of containers so that personnel and equipment can easily move and be moved.

**Markings.** Mark each container to let company personnel know what's being stored. This helps avoid accidental mixing of wastes and also helps outside personnel responding to an emergency:

- Remove or spray-paint over any old labels on the container.
- Label or clearly mark containers with the words "Hazardous Waste" (and any additional information required by your state).
- Label or clearly mark containers with an indication of the hazards of the contents (i.e., applicable hazardous waste characteristics such as "ignitable" or hazard communication consistent with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) labeling requirements).
- Clearly mark each container with the date the storage period begins.

## Hazardous Waste Containers—Proper On-Site Management by Generators: ANSWERS

1. **FALSE.** A hazardous waste container can be any one of these different types of portable devices: 55-gallon drums and barrels and tanker trucks, railroad cars, small buckets, and test tubes.
2. **TRUE.** Whenever possible, store the waste in the container you ship it in.
3. **B. and C.** When choosing and managing a container, you should use a container in good condition, meaning no severe dents or rust; make sure the material that lines the container will not negatively react with the hazardous waste being stored; not put different wastes in the same container if they will negatively react with each other; and maintain enough space between and around containers to make their removal and inspections easier.
4. **A. and C.** When marking containers, you should clearly mark each container with the date the storage period begins, spray-paint over old labels, label, or clearly mark containers with an indication of the hazards of the contents, and put all marks and labels on the same side of the container.



- Make sure the labels or markings are visible for inspection of each container.
- Put all marks and labels on the same side of the container (away from the bung) for quick identification.

Here are some good ways to mark a container:

- Write on the container with a permanent marker or paint.
- Stencil on the container.
- Use a 3- x 5-inch (in.) accumulation label.
- Use a 6- x 6-in. pre-transport label.

## America Recycles Day

Observed annually on **November 15**, America Recycles Day, also known as National Recycling Day, educates people on where and how to properly recycle and encourages them to be more conscious of what they consume and pledge to recycle more in their everyday lives. Sponsored by the Keep America Beautiful program, the day began in 1994 after 2 employees of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) suggested the idea to the National Recycling Coalition (NRC).

**Recycling** has many benefits, including:

- Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators.
- Conserving natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals.
- Lessening the burning of fossil fuels, which can decrease the emissions of greenhouse gas.

You can participate in **America Recycles Day** by visiting [www.kab.org/programs/ard](http://www.kab.org/programs/ard) and taking the #BeRecycled pledge to:

- Learn and find out what materials are collected for recycling in your community.
- Act to reduce the amount of waste you produce, recycle more, and buy products made with recycled content.
- Share the information with family members or friends and encourage them to take the #BeRecycled pledge.

In addition to the #BeRecycled pledge, people can be part of the recycling solution by participating in or hosting their own America Recycles Day event. If organizing or attending an event, be sure to follow state and local health COVID-19 guidance.



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retail  
 safety  
 skid  
 steer  
 drowsy  
 driving  
 team  
 lifting

## Ideas on How to Reduce and Reuse:

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-and-reusing-basics>

- Think Green Before You Shop. Reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions by thinking green when you shop.
- Reduce your food waste by shopping smart, buying what you need, composting food scraps, and donating unused food to food banks or shelters. More ways to reduce your impact.
- Reuse or repurpose items such as old clothing, cloth grocery bags, and containers to prevent waste.
- Buy used items to reduce waste as well as the emissions created by producing new materials or disposing of them in landfills. Donate unused clothing, electronics and building materials to make sure others can reuse them too!
- Buy products made with recycled content. Check labels to see if a product or its packaging is made from recycled materials.
- Know before you throw. Know what items your local recycling program collects and encourage your household to recycle right and recycle more.
- Learn about what else you can do at home, at school, at work and in your community!
- Maintain and repair products, like clothing, tires and appliances, so that they won't have to be thrown out and replaced as frequently.
- Borrow, rent, or share items that are used infrequently, like party decorations, tools, or furniture.

## Chemical Spotlight: Dicrotophos

Dicrotophos is a brown liquid with a pleasant odor. It is an organophosphate insecticide. Store Dicrotophos in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area away from heat. Dicrotophos is not compatible with strong oxidizers, strong acids, metals, and strong bases.

If Dicrotophos is spilled or leaked, avoid breathing vapors, mist, or gas, and ensure adequate ventilation. Remove all sources of ignition and evacuate personnel to safe areas. Use personal protective equipment (PPE), including goggles or safety glasses, gloves, flame-retardant protective clothing, and respiratory protection.

Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so, and do not let the product enter drains, sewers, underground or confined spaces, groundwater, or waterways or discharge into the environment. Absorb liquids in sand or other noncombustible absorbent material, and deposit in sealed containers. Ventilate and wash the area after cleanup is complete. It may be necessary to contain and dispose of Dicrotophos as a hazardous waste. Contact the federal and local Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.