

# Safely Conducting Load Checks for Prohibited Waste at Municipal Landfills and Transfer Stations



# Introduction

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- **Personnel protection and safety are key elements to a successful load check program.**
- **Risk is minimized when the site employs and follows a comprehensive tipping floor safety policy that includes safeguards for safely conducting load checks**

# Key elements employed at WM facilities

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- **Comprehensive tipping floor safety policy**
- **Employee training**
- **Customer outreach**
- **Traffic Control**
- **Personal Protective Equipment**
- **Proper tools**
- **Secure storage of hazardous materials**

# Tipping Floor Safety Policy

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**Designed to protect the safety of employees and customers**

- Identifies a specific location to conduct the inspection.***
- Provides physical barriers to protect traffic employees from vehicular movement.***
- Establishes procedures to safely conduct random load checks.***
- Communicates safety rules to customers.***

# Training

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- **Facility supervisors and lead load inspectors attend an initial three day training including hazardous material management and waste handling procedures;**
- **Load inspectors attend an initial one day load check training (similar to today's training) as well as on the job training;**
- **Other facility staff (site managers, equipment operators and scale house attendants) require Annual awareness training on waste screening procedures.**

# Customer Outreach

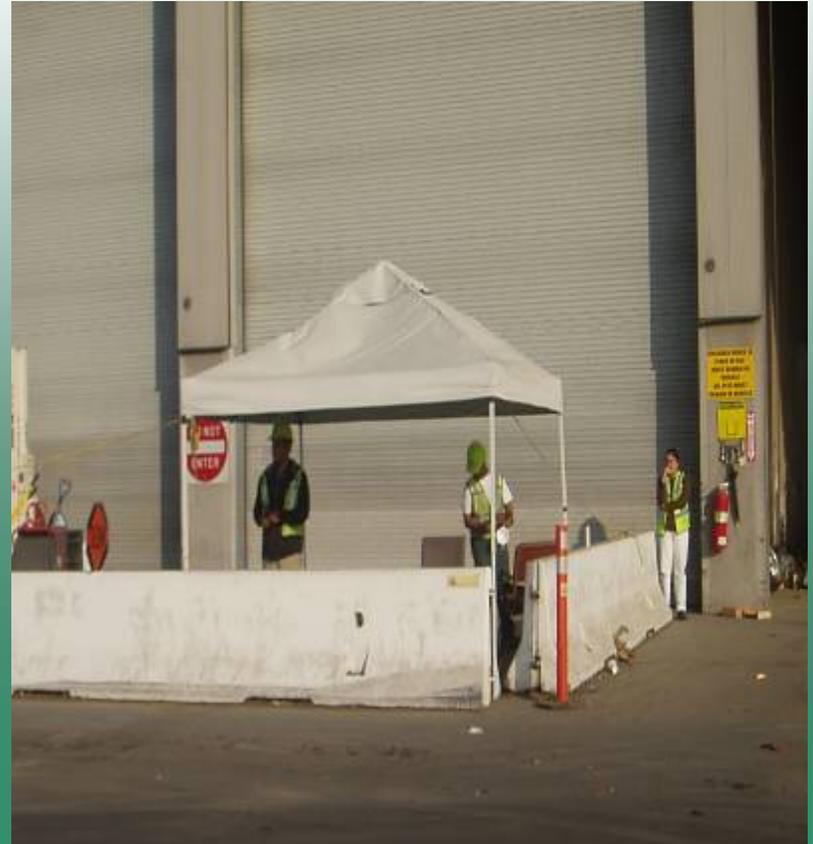
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- **Purpose – To Communicate Prohibited Waste to Customers to Reduce Amount of Prohibited Waste Entering Facility**
  - *Annual mailers to customers*
  - *Trained scale house attendants*
  - *Appropriate signage*
  - *Web sites*

# Traffic Control (transfer Station)

**Eliminated Spotters and replaced them with Traffic Directors.**

- **Place Traffic Directors behind physical barriers.**
- **A Traffic Director's role is to be the “eye and ears” of the operation.**
- **They have the authority to shutdown the operation.**
- **Direct vehicles into the appropriate dumping lanes.**



# Traffic Control (Landfill)

- A Traffic Director is assigned to communicate and direct the traffic in and out of the tipping floor.
- Traffic director communicates with operators via 2-way radios and with hand signals.



# Signage/Security

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- **The load inspections are conducted as a ‘high profile’ inspection by conducting in a visible area.**
- **Delineators, such as a Tractor, Loader or cones are positioned in front of the area. This prevents other vehicles from accessing the inspection area.**
- **Portable signs are also used.**

# Typical Landfill Load Check

- **Traffic Director notifies operators that they will be conducting a random load check**
- **Collectively they determine where the load check will take place at the active face**
- **Traffic Director selects vehicle and gathers customer and ticket information**



# Typical Landfill Load Check (cont.)

- **Load is dumped in designated area. Separated by barriers or distance.**
- **Equipment operator parks next to the load and gets out of his cab.**
- **Traffic Director drives to the load and conducts initial check of the load**
- **Traffic Director gets back into his vehicle while operator spreads the load**



# Typical Landfill Load Check (cont.)

- Operator once again parks and exits the cab while Traffic Director completes the Load Check.
- Prohibited waste that can be removed is handled accordingly using proper PPE
- Traffic Director completes paperwork.



# Typical Transfer Station Load Check

- **Vehicles for inspection are selected at random based on vehicle type.**
- **Vehicle is directed to dump in designated lane.**
- **Traffic delineators used to close off dumping lane.**



# Typical Transfer Station Load Check

- **Heavy Equipment (loader) parked and shutdown next to the load to be inspected.**
- **Maintain separation of 15' from any moving vehicles.**
- **Load Inspector completes inspection.**
- **Traffic Director oversees inspection and gives “all clear” to operators when the load can be pushed.**



# Personnel Protective Equipment

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- **Minimum PPE Required**
  - *High visibility clothing*
  - *Hard Hat*
  - *Eye Protection*
  - *Gloves*
  - *Puncture resistant boots*
- **Additional PPE**
  - *Chemical resistant gloves*
  - *Face shield*
  - *Apron*
  - *Disposable chemical resistant clothing*

# Tools

- **Battery strap**
- **Pick**



# HHW Storage

- Proper signage
- Secure
- Waste separated by type
- Items properly labeled
- Inventory maintained



# Discovery of Prohibited Materials

- Any waste discovered is set aside for proper storage.
- To minimize employee exposure, Waste Management contracts with a third party company to consolidate and label the waste for storage and to prepare the waste for transportation.
- Notification to the local authorities is required whenever hazardous waste is encountered.



# Disposition of Hazardous or Unknown Wastes

- If a waste is unknown or has suspicious markings, the load inspector will stop the load inspection and contact either the generator (if known) or our hazardous waste contractor and the appropriate authorities. The waste will remain in place until it can safely be removed from the area.

