



SAFETY MONDAY

May 7, 2012

OSHA ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The federal government recently released the 2011 enforcement data for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA issued 305 citations against solid waste companies and collected more than \$518,000 in fines. The amount of the fines is a significant increase from 2010, and reflects OSHA's aggressive enforcement policy.

The most commonly issued citations were for violations of OSHA's Respiratory Protection and Hazard Communications standards. The largest fines were for violations of OSHA's lockout tag-out (LOTO) and wiring methods/components standards.

OSHA recently sent letters to nearly 15,000 establishments—including about 300 solid waste locations—advising them they were potential targets for inspection under OSHA's Site-Specific Targeting (SST) program.

Solid waste companies and manufacturers are urged to periodically review their compliance with OSHA rules. Walk around your maintenance facility; observe manufacturing, collection, processing and disposal operations; and review your written safety programs. These actions will help minimize the impact if OSHA arrives at your front door.

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