



Dumpster Cover Falls

Purpose

To share “lessons learned” gained from incident investigations through a small group discussion method format.

To understand “lessons learned” through a Systems of Safety viewpoint.



This material was produced by the Labor Institute and the United Steelworkers International Union under grant number SH-17045-08-60-F-42 Susan Harwood Training Grant Program, for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. It does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U. S. Government.

Lessons Learned

Volume 09, Issue 33

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Background Information

Before beginning this Lessons Learned, please review this and the next page which contain information that will introduce the concepts of Lessons Learned and Systems of Safety.

Creating a safe and healthy workplace requires a never ending search for hazards that sometimes are not obvious to us. These hazards exist in every workplace and can be found by using various methods. Lessons Learned are just as the name suggests: learning from incidents to prevent the same or similar incidents from happening again.

Systems Are Not Created Equal: Not equal in protection and not equal in prevention.

Using our Systems Focus to uncover system flaws or root causes is only one part of controlling hazards. We also need to look at the systems involved to decide on the best way to deal with the problem. The most effective way to control a hazard is close to its source. The least effective is usually at the level of the person being exposed. The system of safety in which the flaw is identified is not necessarily the system in which you would attempt to correct the flaw.



Major Safety System	Design & Engineering	Maintenance & Inspection	Mitigation Devices	Warning Devices	Training & Procedures	Personal Protective Factors
Level of Prevention	Highest—the first line of defense	Middle—the second line of defense			Lowest—the last line of defense	
Effectiveness	Most Effective	←————→				Least Effective
Goal	To eliminate hazards	To further minimize and control hazards				To protect when higher level systems fail
EXAMPLES OF SAFETY SUB-SYSTEMS**	Technical Design and Engineering of Equipment, Processes and Software Management of Change (MOC)** Chemical Selection and Substitution Safe Siting Work Environment HF	Inspection and Testing Maintenance Quality Control Turnarounds and Overhauls Mechanical Integrity	Enclosures, Barriers Dikes and Containment Relief and Check Valves Shutdown and Isolation Devices Fire and Chemical Suppression Devices Machine Guarding	Monitors Process Alarms Facility Alarms Community Alarms Emergency Notification Systems	Operating Manuals and Procedures Process Safety Information Process, Job and Other Types of Hazard Assessment and Analysis Permit Programs Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Refresher Training Information Resources Communications Investigations and Lessons Learned Maintenance Procedures Pre-Startup Safety Review	Personal Decision-making and Actions HF Personal Protective Equipment and Devices HF Stop Work Authority
	Organizational (must address a root cause) Staffing HF Skills and Qualifications HF Management of Personnel Change (MOPC) Work Organization and Scheduling HF Work Load Allocation of Resources Buddy System Codes, Standards, and Policies**					

HF - Indicates that this subsystem is often included in a category called Human Factors.
 * There may be additional subsystems that are not included in this chart. Also, in the workplace many subsystems are interrelated. It may not always be clear that an issue belongs to one subsystem rather than another.
 ** The Codes, Standards and Policies and Management of Change subsystems listed here are related to Design and Engineering. These subsystems may also be relevant to other systems; for example, Mitigation Devices. When these subsystems relate to systems other than Design and Engineering, they should be considered as part of those other systems, not Design and Engineering.

Revised October 2006



Title: Dumpster Cover Falls

Identifier: Volume 09, Issue 33

Date Issued: September 30, 2009

Lessons Learned Statement:

Retrofitting equipment, which in many cases makes the job easier and solves an immediate problem, sometimes can create the potential for disaster. Using the **Design and Engineering System of Safety** when making changes to equipment by ensuring that equipment is properly rated for the job and a carefully thought-out and communicated Management of Change (MOC) plan is in place, will ensure a successful outcome when this dumpster is put back into use. Moving the operator's station to a more visible location (*Safe Siting*) will give the operator the ability to see anyone on the staircase and vice versa.

By using the **Maintenance and Inspection System of Safety**, couplings and damper cylinders can be checked for wear and replaced as needed to avoid a future incident.

By using the **Training and Procedures System of Safety**, workers will learn to do pre-operating inspections of cylinders and couplings before beginning to operate the equipment.

Discussion:

The GPI dumpster is a large dumpster that is fitted with a gear-driven device to assist in opening and closing the heavy lid. The lid is also equipped with damper cylinders, which are designed to slow down the descent of the lid in the event the opening and closing device fails.

A worker was opening the cover on the dumpster, and had gotten it approximately three-fourths of the way open, when it suddenly slammed shut. As the cover closed, the damper cylinders had little or no effect on the rate the cover closed. The falling cover put so much pressure on the dampers that the nuts were stripped off the end of the damper cylinders.

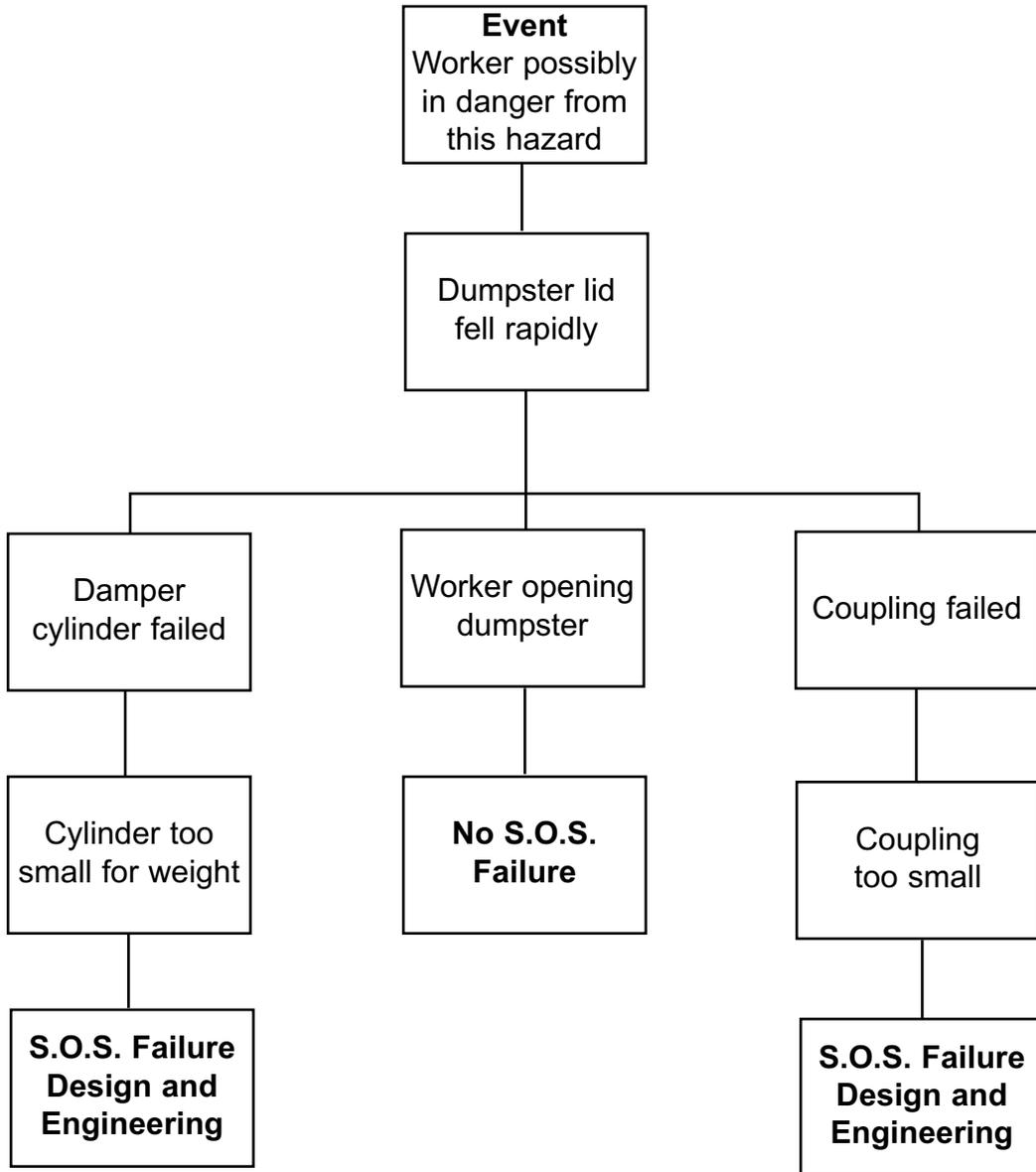
The worker who had been operating the closing device was behind the dumpster at the operator controls and out of harm's way. However, there is a set of stairs beside the dumpster for disposing of office waste. If someone had been on the staircase emptying trash, they could have been crushed beneath the lid.

Upon investigation, the following facts were discovered:

1. The coupling between the electric motor and the gearbox failed.
2. The coupling is too small considering the weight of the lid.
3. The damper cylinders were designed to slow down the lid's descent.
4. The damper cylinders were too small to stop the lid's descent.
5. The operator could not see the stairs from the operator's position.

Analysis

The Logic Tree is a pictorial representation of a logical process that maps an incident from its occurrence, “the event,” to facts of the incident and the incident’s root causes.



Recommended Actions

1. Use damper cylinders rated to support weight.
2. Periodically inspect damper cylinders for proper function.
3. Use larger coupling rated for weight.
4. Redesign dumpster lid; use lighter material for dumpster lid; or replace dumpster with another design to totally eliminate this hazard.
5. Site the operator station so that the staircase is visible to workers using the closing mechanism so that anyone on the stairs can also see the operating station.

Education Exercise

Working in your groups and using the Lessons Learned Statement, Discussion, Analysis and Recommended Actions, answer the two questions below. Your facilitator will give each group an opportunity to share answers with the large group.

1. Give examples of ways to apply the Lessons Learned Statement at your workplace.

2. Of the examples you generated from Question 1, which will you pursue in your workplace? (**Note:** When we say something you may pursue, we mean a joint labor-management activity or a union activity rather than an activity carried out by you as an individual.)

Trainer's Lessons Learned Success Inventory

Following a Lessons Learned (LL) session, **the trainer who led the LL** should complete this form. This information will: 1) Help you reflect on the successes and challenges of the session; 2) Help USW with new curriculum development; and 3) Help USW as a whole better understand how the LL Program is supporting their workers.

By reviewing LL from different sites or from other areas of their workplaces, workers are able to analyze the information and apply these lessons to their own workplaces in order to make their workplaces healthier and safer.

1. Site name (if there are participants from more than one site, please list all).

2. Date of LL training _____
3. LL number used in today's Training _____
4. Your name _____
5. **Summary of Education Question 1:** Please summarize participants' examples of ways to apply this LL Statement to their workplace.

Please continue on reverse side.

- 6. Summary of Education Question 2:** Please summarize actions or recommendations participants discussed pursuing at their workplace(s).

Thank you for completing this form.

EVALUATION

Lessons Learned: Dumpster Cover Falls

Please answer the two questions below:

1. How important is this lessons learned to you and your workplace? (Circle one.) Rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important.

1	2	3	4	5
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2. What suggestions would you make to improve this Lessons Learned?

End of Training Trainer's Instructions

Please complete the information below.

Trainer's Name _____
(Please Print)

Date of training: _____

No. of Participants: Total _____ Hourly _____ Management _____

Location of Training: _____

USW Local # _____

Send:

1. This page;
2. The Education Exercise (page 8);
3. The Trainer's LL Success Inventory form (pages 9 and 10);
4. The evaluation for each participant (page 11); and
5. The Sign-in sheet (page 13) to:

<p>If you are a TOP Site (excluding DOE TOP Sites)</p>	<p>Send to: Steve Cable 2915 Gradient Drive St. Louis, MO 63125</p>
<p>All other sites (including DOE TOP Sites)</p>	<p>Send to: Doug Stephens United Steelworkers 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive Nashville, TN 37211</p>

Thank you for facilitating the sharing of this
Lesson Learned with your coworkers.



SIGN-IN SHEET *(Please print clearly.)*

Class Title: _____ **Class Completion Date:** _____

Location (City, State)/Facility: _____

Grant Program: _____ **Dist. & LU #:** _____

Instructors: 1) _____ **2)** _____

3) _____ **4)** _____ **5)** _____

Name (print first and last)

Check one:

		Hourly	Management
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
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