



Worker crushed by waste container door

At a transfer station a driver was preparing to empty the waste container at the back of his transport truck. The roll-off container was filled with construction debris. Working alone, he swung open the door and started to secure it to the driver's side of the container with a safety chain. The door's rusted bottom hinge plate failed, allowing the door's top pin to drop out of its hinge plate. As a result, the door fell from the container onto the driver, pinning him to the ground. Another worker managed to move the door – weighing about 360-kilograms (800-pounds) – off the trapped driver. The driver suffered internal injuries and broken bones.

Safe work practices:

- Conduct regular preventative maintenance inspections of all waste containers before transporting them. Inspections should include container doors and their hinge assemblies. Keep records of all inspections – including any signs of rust damage or cracked welds – and report any serious defects to your supervisor.
- Repair any defective or unsafe waste containers – including any bent or failing hinge plates – before returning them to service.
- Inform workers of the hazards of working with waste containers.
- Ensure drivers follow safe work procedures for waste containers, including the following:
 - Inspect waste container doors before opening them to ensure they are in good working order.
 - Report any waste containers suspected of being damaged or unsafe.
 - Open container doors by holding the end opposite the hinges. Do not open doors by pushing against the inside face.
- Train drivers to recognize the signs of metal fatigue such as rust and cracked welds.

