



FIX THE HAZARD, NOT JUST THE BEHAVIOR

The safest fix is the one that removes the hazard. When you spot a risk, work down the Hierarchy of Controls before settling for PPE and a reminder.

WORK DOWN THE HIERARCHY

Most Effective

ELIMINATION

SUBSTITUTION

ENGINEERING

ADMINISTRATIVE

PPE

Least Effective

Ask “Can we eliminate it?” first.

Does the task need to be done at all? Can the material be handled before it reaches the hopper or sort line?

Substitute where you can.

Swap a solvent for a safer cleaner; replace a manual lift with a mechanical assist.

Push for engineering fixes.

Guarding, interlocks, LOTO points, backup cameras, physical separation between pedestrians and mobile equipment.

Use administrative controls as support.

Spotters, route notes, employee rotation, and refreshed SOPs work best on top of a physical control.

Wear PPE as the last line of defense and treat a PPE-only fix as unfinished business.

If PPE is the only thing standing between you and the hazard, flag it to your supervisor today.

Warnings wear off, engineering doesn't.

A guard, a barrier, or a redesigned task protects every worker on every shift – including the new hire and the guy covering your route.

Our highest-energy hazards need the strongest controls.

Struck-by, caught-in, and fall exposures in collection and MRF work don't respond well to “be aware.”

The fix costs less than the incident.

A \$200 mirror, a properly rated barricade, or a relocated pinch point beats a fatality investigation every time.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT SHIFT

PICK ONE HAZARD ON YOUR ROUTE OR LINE AND ASK: WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO FIX THIS PERMANENTLY AND WHO DO I NEED TO TELL?