

# New Mexico Occupational Safety & Health

# FATAL FACTS



No. 8775-002

Accident Type:	Crushed within	A photograph showing the interior of a trash compactor. A worker is visible, partially crushed between a hydraulic ram and the side of the container. The scene is filled with debris and trash. Safety signs are visible on the right side of the container.
Number of Fatalities	1	
Weather Conditions:		
Type of Operation:	Refuse collection	
Size of Work Crew:	1	
Competent Safety Monitor on Site:	No	
Safety and Health Program in Effect:	Yes	
Was the Worksite Inspected Regularly:		
Training and Education Provided:	Yes	
Employees Job Titles:	Route Driver	
Age & Gender:	47-M	
Experience at this Type of Work:	6 years	
Time on Project:		

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A Lincoln County employee entered a trash compactor with the truck still running. The compactor's hydraulics system engaged while he was inside the compactor and crushed/compressed the employee leaving him wedged between the hydraulic ram and the side of the trash container.

## INSPECTION RESULTS

As the result of its investigation, NM OSHA issued four serious citations for violations of its construction standards.

## ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Employers must train and instruct each employee in confined space requirements and permit required confined space requirements and post signs appropriately. **29 CFR 1910.146(c)(1)(2)(g)(1)**
2. Employers shall establish an energy control program with training and periodic inspections. Procedures shall be developed and utilized for control of potential hazardous energy. Employers shall ensure training and purpose of the function of the energy control program are understood by employees. **29 CFR 1910.147(c)(1)(4)(7)**

**NOTE:** The case described here was selected as being representative of fatalities caused by improper work practices. No special emphasis or priority is implied nor is the case necessarily a recent occurrence. The legal aspects of the incident have been resolved, and the case is now closed.