

Safety When Washing Your Trucks



BY JACK JACKSON

How safe are you washing your trucks? While most would like to wash at their own facilities there are many barriers – primarily cost and availability of space at their location. Many companies did not build for a wash bay in mind or don't feel they can afford an automated washing system. You would be surprised at how affordable today's automated systems are and how versatile they can be.

Generally, the cost to wash is buried in the maintenance budget with the majority of companies choosing external companies to rely on their washing, primarily with a tanker truck full of water and some sort of chemicals showing up in the yard and spraying down the vehicles late at night or over the weekend. Do you know if you are responsible for those

employees if any accidents happen? There have been a couple cases last year where the company was fined for the deaths of 3rd party workers washing their trucks. It would be prudent to know where you stand.

Companies that have a facility and a need to wash their vehicles regularly have the toughest decisions. With a pressure washer, long handle brush and a ladder, staff scrubs away on a tractor trailer by hand. Safety of the individuals becomes an issue when you have high pressure hoses and ladders, water and chemicals in confined spaces. Injury and fatigue can become common place with little resolve for the workers due to the lack of proper equipment.

And for trucks that haul food or livestock, proper washing is essential. With government regulations and HACCP requirements, washing the inside of the trailers is also imperative. This adds to the time and cost of washing as well as strain on the individuals that must accomplish these tasks.

Working with any supplier of washing equipment systems will help enhance the experience of the workers

with ergonomically placed drop guns, ensuring proper equipment set up, as well as offering the most efficient system to wash your trailers.

Today's technology to wash vehicles is advancing quickly, almost as fast as government regulations on grey water and waste disposal. There are many options to deal with these

issues; however, it always comes down to cost and time to invest in the proper methods.

Chemical companies are focusing on the proper alignment of products, and equipment companies are developing more affordable machinery to help alleviate worker compensation issues. However, if companies do not focus on this

safety issue, money is literally going down the drain in labor costs, chemicals and of course water costs, particularly as they rise to premium levels.

By using metered soap systems and a mechanical automated washing system that reduces the exposure to accidents, this will have a much better ROI than the other alternatives. Today's

automatic systems can fit almost anywhere in a building without requiring dedicated space.

Jack Jackson is President of Awash Systems Corp. "We solve vehicle washing issues where no one else can." Email: jjackson@awashsystems.com or call 800.265.7405. Visit our website www.awashsystems.com. ■

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