



January 9 — Public Health & Dignity Hazard

<p>Man was defecating in shipping yard behind semi and other types of equipment</p>	<p>Use a port a potty</p>
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This behavior is a clear sign that something in the system broke down before the moment it was seen. Whether due to distance, access, time pressure, or lack of clear facilities, the result created a sanitation and health hazard in an active work area. Human waste in a shipping yard exposes others to biological contaminants and creates an unacceptable condition for anyone working, walking, or operating equipment nearby.

Sanitation issues are not personal failures they are process failures that show up in very visible ways.

Hazards

- Exposure to biological contaminants and pathogens
- Slip and contact hazards for pedestrians and equipment operators
- Contamination of work surfaces and equipment
- Loss of dignity and professionalism in the workplace
- Escalation into broader health and hygiene issues

Stats

- OSHA requires **adequate, accessible sanitation facilities** for workers
- Poor sanitation conditions increase the risk of **illness and disease transmission**
- Workers are more likely to bypass facilities when access is unclear, distant, or time-restricted
- Sanitation failures often signal **larger planning or access issues**, not isolated behavior

Words of Wisdom

- When people don't have access, they improvise.
- Fix the system before blaming the person.

Pause and Think

This situation didn't start in the shipping yard — it started earlier with access, communication, or availability. When facilities are too far away, locked, unclear, or time feels pressured, people make poor choices to meet basic needs. Addressing sanitation means making the right option obvious, available, and acceptable so no one feels forced to improvise in a work area.

- Are restroom locations clearly marked and accessible?
- Do break and task expectations allow people to step away?
- How do we identify sanitation gaps before they become visible problems?

**When nature calls, it calls out loud,
But yards aren't restrooms — that's not allowed.
Give folks a place, clear and near,
So health and dignity both stay here.**