



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON SAFETY -- WASTE/RECYCLING COLLECTION



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Renewed Focus on Safety

SWANA is placing increased emphasis on improving the industry's safety culture.

In the United States, waste/recycling workers have the 5th highest fatality rate in the country.

- Higher than police officers or firefighters
- Rate and numbers has increased since 2009
- On average, 1 U.S. waste worker dies weekly on the job

Many worker fatalities occur at small employers in the private sector (i.e., small haulers)

60-80 fatal third-party accidents each year in U.S. (other driver/pedestrian/bike/motorcycle)



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Fatalities

Most common collection worker fatalities:

- Backing
- Roll Over
- Struck By

Most common third-party fatalities:

- Other driver crosses into path (head on)
- Intersections (pedestrians/other vehicles/bikes)
- Back of the truck

Injuries and Illnesses

- **10,000+ reported injuries or illness/year in U.S.**
 - Collection injury rate is 6.6 (per 100 employees) (7.1 in 2014)
 - MRF injury rate is 5.1 (8.4 in 2014)
- **2,000+ accidents/year require towed vehicle**
- **U.S. government has found reported injury rates and days away from work are higher for public sector workers than in private sector**
 - Older workers/older trucks in public sector?
 - Public sector – resid collection w manual rear trucks
 - Are all injuries being reported?

Solid Waste Accidents

Solid waste and recycling vehicles are involved in accidents with EVERYTHING:



Fires Continue to be a Problem

Summer fires hit several recycling facilities

Why Rumpke's Cincinnati recycling plant has had so many fires

Fire at recycling facility sends plumes of black smoke rising over North Birmingham



Ten Tips to Improve Safety

1. Engage Your Drivers and Other Front Line Workers

- **Majority of accidents/injuries are caused by unsafe behavior.**
- **Make safety personal for your workers.**
 - **Figure out how to motivate workers to change their unsafe behaviors – Safety needs to be part of their DNA.**
- **Use photos and video to reach employees.**
 - **Most front-line workers will respond better to visual than written safety communication.**

2. Review Your Safety Data

Not all employers have the same safety issues:

- What are your most common injuries/accidents?
- What are your most costly injuries/accidents?
- Do you have more accidents on certain days/times?
- Figure out common causes—address them.
- Each municipality/company has different fleets, routes, safety leadership, budget constraints, etc.

3. Route Observation

Many employers observe drivers/helpers on the route to make sure they are complying with applicable laws and working safety. Employers that do route observation on a regular basis using supervisors or cameras see a substantial reduction in unsafe behaviors and accidents.

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Speed
- Cellphone/Texting
- Seat Belts
- Turn Signals
- Backing/Riding Step (ANSI guidelines)

4. Use *Safety Monday* and Other Visual Communication Tools

- Communicate importance of safety frequently and consistently
- Weekly/monthly safety meetings
- Get creative with signs, videos and posters



5. Safety Belts

Drivers and helpers should always wear a safety belt.

- If truck overturns, it can save your driver's/helper's life!



New York City - August 2011

Distracted Driving

6. Distracted Driving is Dangerous!

- Cell phone
- Texting
- Food and drinks
- Have a written policy!
- Are you enforcing it?



The National Safety Council (U.S.) recently reported **27%** of all crashes involve cell phone use or texting.

7. Focus on Lifting and Slips/Trips/Falls

- Two most common injuries for solid waste workers.
- Lifting training - new hire and annual
 - Workers are getting older and may be more prone to injury
- Why are your workers falling?
 - Correct footwear
 - Adjusting for bad weather
 - Rushing

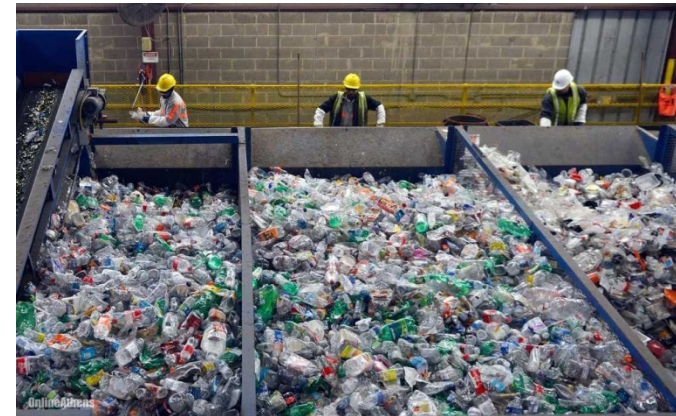


Photo Courtesy of: The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

8. Don't Forget About Disposal

Collection employees need to be reminded to follow the disposal facilities' rules - challenging work environment:

- Traffic direction/speed limits
- Truck separation – tipping floor/working face
- No Scavenging
- Don't walk under open tailgate
- Slips/trips/falls
- Frozen loads and swinging doors



9. PPE – Last Line of Defense

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is often an employee's last line of defense to avoiding an injury. Because waste/recycling workers face a wide variety of hazards, PPE is essential to preventing injuries.

- **Make sure all collection workers are wearing high viz**
- **Shoes, gloves, hard hats, glasses**
 - Use observations on route or at facility to enforce PPE rules.





SWANA's Safety Program

Tip #10: SWANA's expanded Safety Program includes webinars, weekly and monthly safety information, and frequent updates to members about accidents in their states.



- **Safety Ambassadors**
- **Safety Monday**
- **Fatality Alerts**
- **Classroom safety/compliance training**
- **Collecting injury/accident data**
- **Safety Awards – WASTECON**
- **Annual Safety Summit – March 2017**
- **#SWANAsafety**



**2017 ISWA World Congress
with
The 55th Annual WASTECON**

September 25–27, 2017
Baltimore, Maryland

Call for Speakers

Conclusions

- **Solid waste is dangerous work and employers have a responsibility to provide safety training and information to workers to help them prevent accidents and injuries.**
- **In the U.S., successful employers are engaging employees and getting them to change their unsafe behaviors.**
- **SWANA wants to help NERC and all waste employers reduce accidents and injuries as we work to get the waste sector off the list of 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.**



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Questions?

Thank you!

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