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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
of North America

# SWANA'S SAFETY PROGRAM

HELPING GET THE INDUSTRY OFF THE TOP 10 LIST



**SAFETY**  **MATTERS**

**SWANA.org/Safety**

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# Renewed Focus on Safety

**A critical component of the “new” SWANA is a strong emphasis on improving safety in the industry. It’s a UNIVERSAL NEED**

**In the United States, waste collection workers have 5<sup>th</sup> highest fatality rate in the country.**

- Likely undercounts (temps, public sector)**
- Rate and numbers has increased since 2009**
- On average, 1 U.S. waste worker dies weekly on the job**

**Disproportionate number of 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.**



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# 2016 Data

## There has been a steady barrage of fatal accidents involving waste vehicles

- 24 number of workers killed
- 37 third-parties (other drivers, pedestrians)
- June/July have been really bad – 8 each month

Pastor killed when garbage truck collides with train in Gaston County - NC

Man crushed to death by rolling garbage truck in Bethlehem – PA

Sanitation worker killed after garbage truck backs into him – SC

Man dies in crash with garbage truck on Hwy 290 - TX

Sunrise Beach Woman Killed In Head-On Crash With Garbage Truck - MO

Los Angeles Area Man Killed by Garbage Truck - CA

# Solid Waste Safety Data

- **Injury/illness rate also increased in recent years**
  - In 2014, the U.S. reported injury/illness rates:
    - Solid waste collection - 7.1
    - Landfill - 4.9
    - MRF - 8.4
- **NIOSH has found reported injury rates and days away from work are much higher for public sector workers than in private sector**
  - Older workers/light duty/better reporting?

# Solid Waste Accidents

**Solid waste vehicles are involved in accidents with EVERYTHING:**



# Fires Continue to be a Problem



# Safety - Florida

- **There have been several fatal accidents in Florida over the past year**
  - April 21, 2016 – SUV hits back of City of Tallahassee FEL at 5am – driver killed
  - March 21, 2016 – Car hits back of City of Ft Myers truck at I-75/State Road 82 – driver killed
  - August 27, 2015 – Temporary employee behind City truck killed by car
  - June 17, 2015 – Key Sanitation helper dies on route

**FLORIDA OFTEN LEADS U.S. in FATAL ACCIDENTS**

# Miracle in Miami

**A City of Miami driver survived a 75-foot drop off of I-95 in January 2016.**



Photo/Video credit: The Miami Herald



Photo credit: WPTV Miami-Dade

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfaYcPuHJNM>





# SWANA's Safety Program

**SWANA's expanded Safety Program includes webinars, weekly and monthly safety information, and frequent updates to chapters about accidents in their states. Our 2015 WASTECON Safety Summit included 6 sessions that attracted 650 individuals interested in reducing accidents and injuries.**

- **Safety Monday**
- Slow Down to Get Around stickers
- **Safety Ambassadors in chapters**
- Fatality Info to chapters
- Classroom safety/compliance training
- 2016 – **NEW** - Collected injury/accident data
- 2016 – **NEW Safety Awards @WASTECON!**
- Aug 2016 – WASTECON Safety Summit – Indiana
- Partnering with NWRA/ISRI – Stand Downs
- **Social Media** - use #SWANAsafety





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# Safety Monday

**Safety Monday is a weekly safety newsletter that we send to all members – now in English and Spanish**

- **Use in safety meetings/toolbox talks**
- **Post on safety board**
- **Distribute to drivers/workers**

**How do you use Safety Monday?**



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# Slow Down to Get Around

- **Slow Down to Get Around is a national effort to remind drivers to drive more carefully around refuse vehicles**
  - SWANA gave away 4,000 stickers
  - SWANA supports legislation increasing fines
  - Participating in SDTGA events (Virginia)





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# Safety Ambassadors

## Safety Ambassadors should:

- 1. Be the primary safety contact for HQ in each chapter and be conduit to members re new SWANA safety initiatives, accidents, and upcoming events**
- 2. Be the primary resource for chapter members with safety and compliance questions.**
- 3. Educate members about SWANA's safety resources**
- 4. Provide guidance to HQ and Safety Committee re development of future SWANA safety resources**

**First meeting will be at WASTECON on August 24**



# Data Collection

- **We are analyzing municipal accident/injury data from more than 40 cities/counties**
- **Federal OSHA data is incomplete/overbroad**
- **Results to be discussed at WASTECON and shared with participants and Safety Ambassadors**
  - Thank you to Florida members who submitted data!

# Improving Worker 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.
- Get visual – use photos and video to reach employees.
  - Most front-line workers will respond better to visual than written safety communication.

# Improving Worker Safety

## 2. 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



## 3. Review Your Safety Data

Not all Florida waste employers have the same data:

- 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.



## 4. Safety Belts

- **CDL drivers required to wear a safety belt on the route.**
- **Helpers should also use safety belt when in the cab**
  - New federal rule takes effect August 9, 2016
  - Always before/after the route is completed.
- If truck overturns, it can save your driver's/helper's life!



New York City - August 2011

## 5. Distracted Driving Policy—Enforce it!

- Cell phone
- Texting
- Food and beverages
- 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.

## 6. Focus on Backing/Rear End Collisions

Two most common accidents for solid waste vehicles:

- Rushing
- Driver NOT using helper/mirror/camera while backing



Photo credit: [www.grandforksherald.com](http://www.grandforksherald.com)



Photo credit: Green Fleet Magazine

# Improving Worker Safety

## 7. Focus on Lifting and Slips/Trips/Falls

- Two most common injuries for solid waste workers:
  - Lifting training—new hire and refresher
  - Workers getting older and may be more prone to injury
- Why are workers falling?
  - Correct footwear
  - Adjusting for inclement weather
  - Rushing
- Solutions?
  - Consider weight limits on
  - bag/containers



Photo credit: Thom Carroll/Philly Voice

## 8. Don't Forget About Disposal

Landfills, transfer stations and MRFs are challenging work environments:

- Pre-trip on heavy equipment
- Traffic rules – enforce them
- Truck separation at working face
- High viz for everyone
- Lighting
- Don't walk under open tailgate
- Slips/trips/falls
- Swinging doors





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# Improving Worker Safety

## 9. PPE – Last Line of Defense

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

- **Make sure workers are wearing high viz**
  - Too many solid waste employees wearing dark shirts on routes!
- **Shoes, gloves, hard hats, glasses**
  - Use observations on route or at facility to enforce PPE rules.



# Conclusions

- **Solid waste employees in the U.S. have high fatality and injury rates. Our vehicles are involved in too many fatal accidents.**
- **Successful employers are engaging employees and getting them to change their unsafe behaviors.**
- **SWANA is enhancing and expanding the safety resources it provides to the entire industry—to help get the industry off the “Top 10” most dangerous jobs list and improve your safety performance.**



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# Questions?

# Thank you!



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