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of North America

GETTING OUT OF THE TOP 5 MOST DANGEROUS JOB IN AMERICA: A TOP SWANA PRIORITY



SWANA FL Safety Symposium
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Background on SWANA

- **SWANA is the largest association for the waste & recycling sector in the U.S.**
 - 10,000+ members

SWANA has 46 chapters in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and a new Pacific Basin Chapter



- **SWANA's core programs focus on improving the professionalism of the entire industry – both public and private sector**

SAFETY



MATTERS

SWANA has a big and growing safety program b/c solid waste collection is the 5th most dangerous job in U.S.

- Safety Ambassadors in all 46 chapters
- Annual Safety Summit/Safety Awards at WASTECON
- *Safety Monday* – weekly bulletin
- *Slow Down to Get Around*
- Frequent training/webinars
- www.swana.org/safety
- Hauler Outreach Programs – Ohio, SC, NC (2018)
- Partnering with NWRA/ISRI/EREF/NGVA



Unacceptable

The current safety record of the waste collection industry is unacceptable!

Despite:

- SWANA's increased efforts
- More attention by many cities, companies & mfrs
- New state laws (SDTGA) and federal rules (ELDs)



Unacceptable

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

- Higher than police officers or firefighters**
- Fatality rate has increased since 2009 after 10 year decline**
- On average, 1 U.S. waste worker dies weekly on the job**

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

Unacceptable

The federal government's fatality report for 2017 found:

- 30 collection fatalities
- 6 landfill fatalities
- 4 MRF fatalities



SWANA's 2017 fatality report

- 40 workers & 95 third-party deaths in US/Canada

Unprecedented

During 2018, there were about 150 deaths involving the solid waste industry in the United States, and 4 in Canada:

60 worker fatalities (a BIG increase over 2017)

- 41 collection
- 19 post-collection & long-haul

94 third-party deaths – other drivers/passengers/peds/bicyclists

Federal government 2017 worker injury/illness data:

- slight decline in collection, slight increase at landfills and a big increase at MRFs

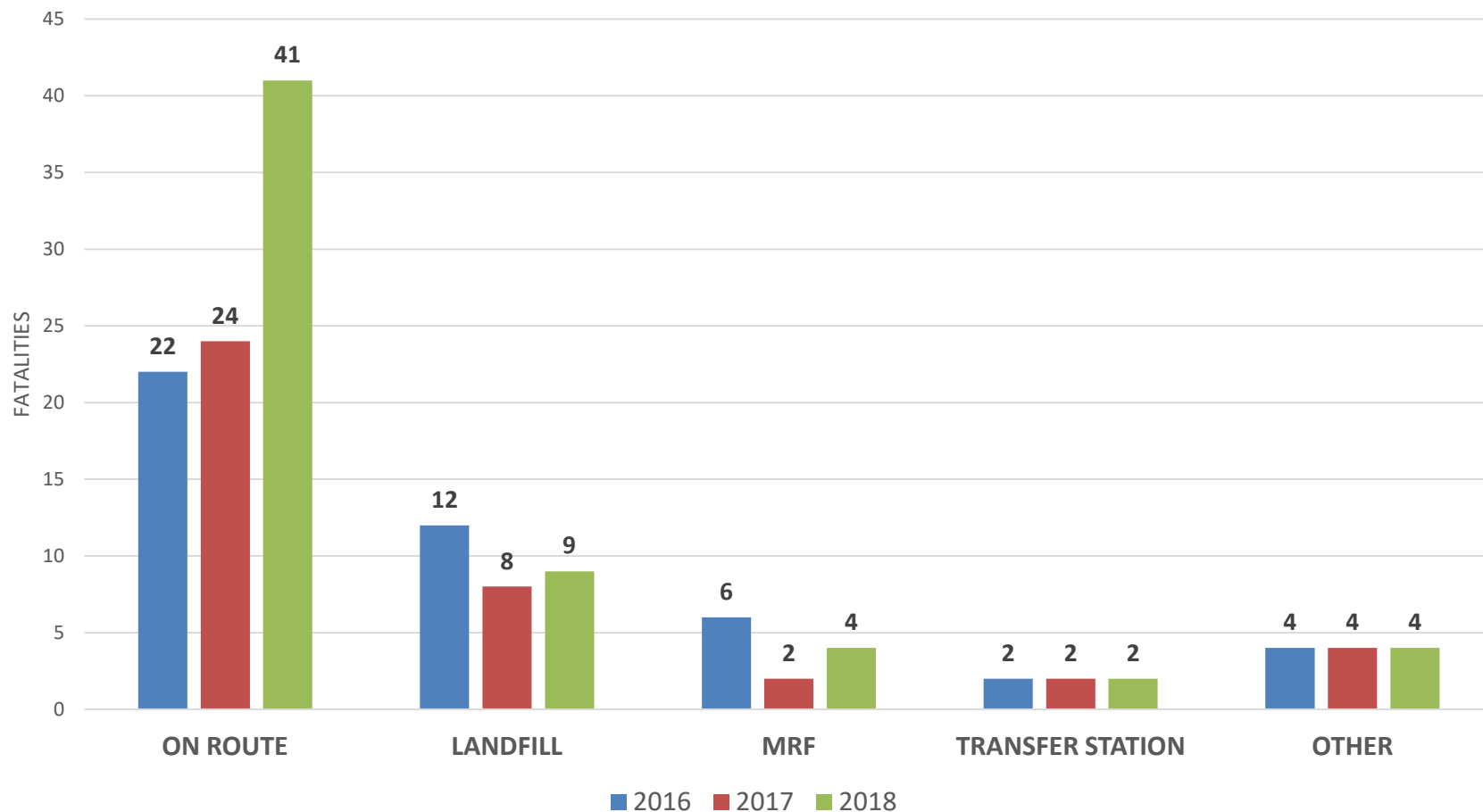
Collection 5.1 Landfill 5.3 MRF 9.8



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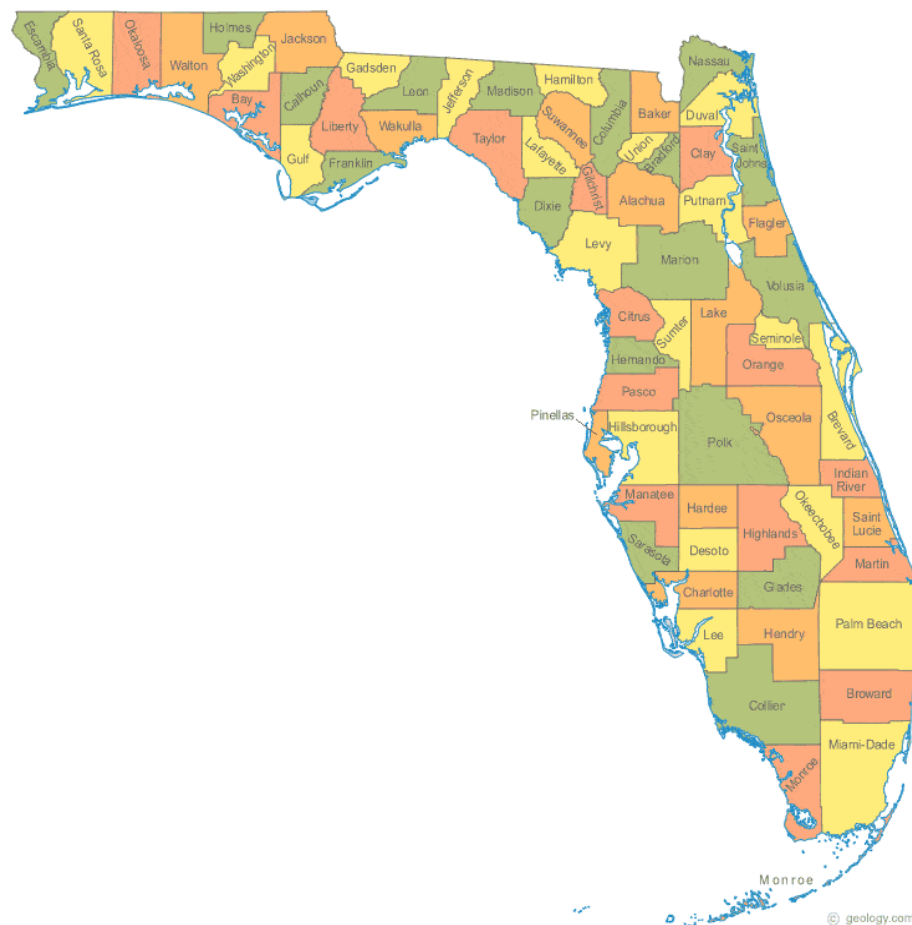
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Worker Fatality By Location



Florida

- **Florida experienced a significant increase in fatal incidents in 2018 v 2017**
 - 2017 7 – 1 worker, 6 third-parties
 - 2018 **16 – 7 workers, 9 third parties**
- **What accounts for the increase?**



Unprecedented

January 2019 | 22 Fatalities



- 15 Third Party Deaths
- 7 worker fatalities
- 3 in collection
- 3 at landfill, 1 MRF
- *4 of the fatalities occurred in Canada*



FLEETS & TECHNOLOGY > SAFETY

SWANA Calls for Renewed Focus
on Safety

Unprecedented

February-March 2019

- **Only 4 in Feb – including 1 in Fla (Winter Haven)**
- **3 in March through 3/12**

There is no rhyme or reason for the huge swings in frequency

Unprecedented

WHO IS HAVING THESE ACCIDENTS/INJURIES?

- Large national companies
- Regional companies
- Small haulers
- Local governments



Unprecedented - National News!

Amtrak train carrying 200 Members of Congress, staff, & families hit a garbage truck in Virginia (Jan 2018)



Unprecedented

- Trucks are catching on fire with increased frequency, and NG trucks create new maintenance and safety issues
- Increased use of lithium-ion batteries poses major danger to disposal facilities





Our Safety Pledge

“I agree to provide a safe and healthful workplace to my employees and contract workers. I pledge to consider worker, customer, and public safety in every decision we make. Our mission is to serve customers safely. If we cannot do it safely, then we will not do it at all.”



Implementation

What is SWANA telling the industry?

1. Engage the front-line by using pics/video



Implementation

2. Make Safety Personal for your Workers

- Explain why safety should matter to them

3. Review Your Safety Data & look for Patterns

- Every company/muni is different – routes/trucks/budget

Most common accidents:

backing/rear end

Most common injuries:

strains/sprains & slips/trips/falls



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Summer Heat can Be Deadly

- **In Florida, you often need to keep heat-related issues in mind!**
 - Frequent rest, provide water and shade
 - Recognize symptoms
 - Move worker to shade/cold if symptomatic
 - Call 911 if emergency



**Campaign to Prevent
Heat Illness in
Outdoor Workers**

BIG Financial Costs

4. The financial costs of major accidents can easily exceed \$1 million (settlement/jury award; legal fees; insurance increases; mgmt time)

- Fla - \$20 million jury award – UF bicyclist killed (Dec 2018)
- Mass - \$3.5 million settlement – bicyclist killed in Boston (Nov 2018)
- Penn - \$6.1 million settlement – bicyclist killed in Philly (Sept 2018)
- Oregon - \$13.5 million jury award upheld
-- Portland pedestrian lost leg (July 2018)
- Conn - \$13.6 million settlement w/ hauler - motorcyclist (April 2018)
- Illinois - \$4.75 million settlement w/City of Evanston (Dec 2017)



I'm afraid you're screwed.

Implementation

5. 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 front line workers are wearing high viz**
- **Shoes, gloves, hard hats, glasses**
 - ✓ Use observations/cameras on route or at facility to enforce PPE rules.





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Seriously?



6. Don't Forget About MRFs

Recycling employees face unique hazards and need to be reminded to follow the rules

- Lockout Tagout
- Bale Stacking
- Forklifts
- Sorters: Hand injuries/clothing
- Slips/trips/falls



Implementation- Disposal

7. Don't Forget About Disposal – WTE/TS/LF

Post-collection employees need to be reminded to follow safety rules – it's a very challenging work environment:

- Traffic direction/speed limits
- Truck separation – tipping floor/working face
- No Scavenging – Stay w/in 6 ft. of vehicle
- Don't walk under open tailgate
- Slips/trips/falls
- No cell phone use
- PPE – Hi viz/shoes/gloves/glasses



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

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



9. 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.

Hauler Outreach

We need to reach more haulers, especially those that aren't members of SWANA or NWRA. All drivers dump their loads somewhere - SWANA's Hauler Outreach Program involves providing info to collection workers at LF/TS/MRF/WTE

- Several chapters held events in 2018
- Many chapters are planning hauler outreach events in 2019
- Florida??????

We need manufacturers, companies and local governments to support these efforts



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New SDTGA Stickers





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WASTECON

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WASTECON 2019

Phoenix, Arizona

October 21 – 24, 2019

Conclusions

- **Solid waste can be dangerous work and employers have a responsibility to provide safety training and information to workers to help them prevent accidents and injuries.**
- **Successful employers are engaging their employees and getting them to change their unsafe behaviors.**
- **SWANA wants to help you and all waste employers in Florida reduce accidents and injuries and get the waste sector off the list of 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.**



Questions?

Thank you!

www.swana.org/safety

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