Industry Safety Update
Why Safety Matters?

Waste & recycling collection has the 5th highest fatality rate of any job in the U.S.
5th Deadliest Job

- Fishers and related fishing workers: 41 fatal work injuries, 99.8 fatal work injury rate
- Logging workers: 55 fatal work injuries, 84.3 fatal work injury rate
- Aircraft pilots and flight engineers: 59 fatal work injuries, 48.6 fatal work injury rate
- Roofers: 91 fatal work injuries, 45.2 fatal work injury rate
- Refuse and recyclable material collectors: 30 fatal work injuries, 35.0 fatal work injury rate
- Structural iron and steel workers: 14 fatal work injuries, 33.4 fatal work injury rate
- Driver/sales workers and truck drivers: 987 fatal work injuries, 26.8 fatal work injury rate
- Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers: 258 fatal work injuries, 24.0 fatal work injury rate
- First-line supervisors of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeeping workers: 53 fatal work injuries, 21.0 fatal work injury rate
- Electrical power-line installers and repairers: 26 fatal work injuries, 18.7 fatal work injury rate

Total fatal work injuries = 5,147
All-worker fatal injury rate = 3.5

(per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers)
• 1 U.S. waste worker died every 6 days on average in 2018
• Higher rate than police officers or firefighters
• High fatality rate compared to other industries over at least past 6 years
• Many worker fatalities occur at small employers in the private sector
  – Small and medium-sized haulers
Government Data
2015 - 2017

2015
- Solid waste collection: 36
- Solid waste landfill: 11
- Material recovery facility: 3

2016
- Solid waste collection: 33
- Solid waste landfill: 9
- Material recovery facility: 0

2017
- Solid waste collection: 32
- Solid waste landfill: 6
- Material recovery facility: 4
Collection Fatalities
2011 - 2017
2018 SWANA Data

161 Fatalities

• Both workers & members of the public
• Occurred during collection, @ MRFs, TS, landfills, etc.
• 4 fatalities in Tennessee – 2 workers & 2 members of the public
61 Solid Waste Workers Died

- 42 drivers and helpers out on collection
- 9 at landfills
- 4 at MRFs
- 2 at Transfer Stations
- 4 other
100 members of the public died

- Majority were driver or passenger in a vehicle accident w/ a collection truck
- 11 pedestrians
- 10 bicyclists
31 solid waste-related fatalities

[3/21/19]

• 22 fatalities in January alone
• 9 solid waste workers
• 22 members of the public
January 14 – Lewisburg, TN

Landfill worker struck and killed by dump truck while helping a disabled vehicle near entrance of facility

March 12 – Knoxville, TN

Motorcyclist died after striking rear wheels of a garbage truck at an intersection
Fatalities

Most common collection worker fatalities

- Backing
- Struck by
- Rollover
Fatalities

Most common third-party fatalities

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

- **15,000+ reported injuries or illness/year in U.S.**
  - Collection injury rate is **6.6 (per 100 employees)**
    - Strains/Sprains - Lifting
    - Slips/Trips/Falls

- **2,000+ accidents/year require towed vehicle**
Injuries and Illnesses
2006 - 2017

Per 100 Full Time Employees

- Landfill
- Collection
- MRF
Solid waste and recycling vehicles are involved in accidents with EVERYTHING:
Fires Continue to be a Problem

Summer fires hit several recycling facilities

Firefighters respond to fire in garbage truck

Garbage truck catches fire, damages 4 businesses at Mendham shopping center

Plano to dump recyclables in landfill after fire destroys service center
The number of fires involving NGV garbage trucks raise public concern.

EDITORIAL: Beware dangers of trucks using natural gas

NJ Observer-Tribune (Feb. 1, 2017)
Financial Costs

Major accident costs can easily exceed $1 million (settlement/jury award; legal fees; insurance increases; management time)

– Georgia - $11 million settlement (Nov 2016)
– Oregon - $14 million jury award (May 2016)
– Michigan - $14.4 million jury award (March 2015)
Your Responsibilities

Management Responsibilities for Health and Safety:
• Leadership
• Training
• Assignment of responsibilities
• Recognition
• Corrective Action
• Enforcement
• Reporting
• Record Keeping
Involve Everybody

Engage Your Drivers, Operators, and Front Line Workers

- A majority of accidents/injuries are caused by unsafe behavior
- **Make safety personal** for your workers
- How do we motivate workers to change their unsafe behaviors?
- Use photos and video to reach employees
  - Show me; don’t tell me
  - Don’t make me read it
Know Your Data

Review **Your** Safety Data

Safety issues vary:

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
- There is no boilerplate: different fleets, routes, people, leadership, budgets
Real Life Check In

Route Observation

- Look for compliance with laws & safety processes
- Regular observation by supervisors or cameras
- Leading to substantial reduction in unsafe behaviors and accidents:
  - Proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - Speed
  - Cellphone/Texting
  - Seat Belts
  - Turn Signals
  - Backing/Riding Step (ANSI guidelines)

*What role can technology play?*
Communicate Frequently

Use *Safety Monday* and Other Visual Communication Tools

- Communicate importance of safety *frequently* and *consistently*
- Get creative with signs, videos and posters
- Get creative with locations
- Talk about what you hand out or hang up
  - Weekly/monthly safety meetings
  - Conversation when you see somebody doing it right ... or doing it wrong
Buckle Up

Safety Belts

Drivers and helpers should always wear a safety belt in the cab.

It can save a life.
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.
Focus on Backing/Rear End Collisions

- These are the two most common accidents for solid waste vehicles.
- Rushing is often a contributing factor - Why are we rushing?
- Is driver using helper/mirror/camera while backing?
Focus on **Lifting** and **Slips/Trips/Falls**

- Two most common injuries for solid waste workers.
- Train to lift properly
  - New hires and annual refresher courses
  - Aging workforce 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
Transfer Stations, Landfills, and MRFs

- Equally challenging work environments
- And heavy equipment
- And customers unfamiliar with the site driving around
- And passengers – small children and pets
- And the allure of other people’s garbage – scavenging is not recycling
Tip Floor and Working Face

Do you?

- Have directional signage and posted speed limits
- Prohibit cell phone use by employees and customers
- Establish truck separation requirements for tipping floor/working face
- Enforce scavenging prohibitions
- Teach about areas under open tailgates and behind swinging doors
- Train employees to avoid slips/trips/falls (on/off equipment)
- Require PPE – high-viz puncture-resistant shoes, gloves, glasses, hearing protection
Facility Operations

And in the facilities, among others:

- Lock-out/Tag-out
- Bale stacking
- Forklifts and skidloaders
- Sorters: hand injuries, repetitive motion, loose clothing
- Slips/trips/falls
- Storing LP cannisters
- Needle sticks
Training

- New Hire
- Operations
- Proper use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- Proper sharps/hazardous materials response
- Spill Response
- Safe equipment operation
- Lockout/tagout (LOTO) procedures
- Hearing conservation program
- First aid/CPR
- Emergency action plan
- Workplace violence
- Avoiding musculo-skeletal/ergonomic injuries
- Fire Training (Fire Extinguishers)
- Lock Out Tag Out
- Confined Space
- Communicating with the Public
Safety Plans and Reports

- Health and Safety Plan
- Accident Prevention Plan
- Emergency Contingency Plan
- Accident Incident Report
- Near Miss Report
- Corrective Action Plan
- Operations Plan
- Spill Prevention Plan
- OSHA 300 Log
Record Keeping

- If it is not Written Down or Recorded it did not Happen
- Safety Meetings
- Trainings
- Pre / Post Trip Inspections
- Accidents / Incidents
- Near Miss Reports
- Housekeeping Reports
- Corrective Action
Safe Daily

- Communicate Safety with your Team Every day
- Text, Email, Post it Notes, in Person, Cooler Talks, Social Media
- Weather
- Traffic
- Events
- What will affect them Today: Tuesday, May 28, 2019
Safe Daily Hashtags

- #BuckleUp
- #DistractedDrivingKills
- #PPE
- #TheLifeYouSaveMayBeYours
- #SlowDown
- #ArriveAlive
Call For Help

- SWANA
- Electric utility company
- Insurance company
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Equipment vendors
- Emergency medical technician (EMT)
- Consultants
The Last Line of Defense

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Do the PPE analysis for each job
- It’s not enough to put people in high visibility clothing
- Identify the risks, select the right protections, write it down
- Make it personal
- Enforce PPE usage
- Set a good example
- PPE is also a reminder
SWANA’s Safety Resources

- SWANA.org/SAFETY
- #SWANAsafety
- Safety Monday
- Slow Down to Get Around Laws & Truck Decals
- Fatality Alerts
- Classroom Safety & Compliance Training
- Annual Safety Summit at WASTECON
- Partnering with NWRA, EREF, ISWA, OSHA
“I pledge to help everyone get home safe every single day. I will consider worker, customer, and public safety in every decision that I make.

My ultimate mission is to serve the community safely for myself, my company, and those who depend on me. If I cannot do it safely, then I will not do it at all.”

Take the pledge online @ SWANA.org/SAFETY
Thank You

Nothing else we do is more important!