Solid waste vehicles are involved in accidents with EVERYTHING:
Fires Continue to be a Problem
Renewed Focused on Safety

Why does SWANA care about safety?

Waste/recycling collection workers have 5th highest fatality rate in U.S.

- 33 collection employee deaths in 2015 (38.8 per 100,000 FTE)
- Likely undercounts (temps, public sector)
- Rate has increased since 2009 after 10 year decline
- SWANA has recorded at least 45 solid waste worker deaths in 2016
- Disproportionate number of worker fatalities occur at small employers in the private sector (i.e., small haulers)
Focused on Safety

Lots of Third-Party Fatalities

- There were at least 64 fatal solid-waste related accidents in which a member of the public was killed in 2016

- This includes the single deadliest incident of 2016 which took place in Ohio
Ohio Fatalities 2016 - 2017

- 2/20/2016 - Fairlawn man crushed to death by compactor truck
- 5/17/2016 - Man killed at Miami Twp. Landfill – Construction accident
- 5/18/2016 - Car fails to yield in path of garbage truck, 4 occupants ruled deceased at the scene in Vinton County
- 9/20/16 - Collection worker struck by semi-truck in Ellsworth
Ohio Fatalities 2016 - 2017

• 11/10/2016 – A man was struck and killed by heavy equipment at landfill

• 12/15/16 – A man was struck and killed by a garbage truck while he was on the side of the road

• 2/22/17 – Employee at recycling facility died after becoming trapped in a baler

• 4/14/17 – Collection driver failed to yield at a stop sign and was ejected from truck and killed in subsequent crash.
Injuries & Illnesses

- **Injury/illness rate for private sector**
  - In 2015, the U.S. reported injury/illness rates:
    - Solid waste collection - 6.6 (6.6 workers per 100 employees)
    - Landfill - 3.5 (3.5 workers per 100 employees)
    - MRF - 5.1 (5.1 workers per 100 employees)

- 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?
• 10,000 reported injuries and 1,800 tow away accidents/year

**Bottom line:** Each week, there are 2-3 fatal accidents involving a solid waste employee or vehicle, hundreds of injuries, and dozens of accidents.
Ohio waste/recycling employers face common safety issues:

- Challenging work environment
  - Weather/weight/traffic/sharps/slips/trips
- Lack of supervision on the route/disposal site
- Lack of compliance with safety/facility rules
- Some argue there is inadequate training/maintenance
- We need to work together to address these issues!
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.
2. Review Your Safety Data

Not all Ohio 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.
- Only 1 Ohio participant in SWANA's first municipal accident and injury survey this spring.
3. Route Observation

Solid waste employers need to observe drivers and 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 see a substantial reduction in unsafe behaviors and accidents.

- PPE
- Seat Belts
- Backing (ANSI)
- Riding Steps (ANSI)
- Speed
- Turn Signals
- Cellphone/Texting
- LOTO
4. Use *Safety Monday*, *Safety Matters* and Other Visual Communication Tools

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOhd_dKwxVs
5. Safety Belts

- CDL drivers are required to wear a safety belt on the route.
- Helpers should also use safety belt when in the cab
  - Especially to and from the route and when on the way to disposal site
- If truck overturns, it can save your driver’s/helper’s life!

New York City - August 2011
6. **Distracted Driving Policy—Enforce it!**

- Cell phone
- Texting
- Food and beverages
- Have a written policy!
- Are you enforcing it?
- **Texting in Ohio is against the law, no cell phone use at all for novice drivers!!**

The National Safety Council (U.S.) recently reported 27% of all crashes involve cell phone use or texting.
7. 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?
- Defensive routing, eliminate backing and unprotected left turns.
Improving Worker Safety

8. Focus on Lifting and Slips/Trips/Falls

- These are the two most common injuries for solid waste workers.
- Lifting training - new hire and refresher
  - Workers are getting older and may be more prone to injury
- Consider limits on bag/container weights
- Why are your workers falling?
  - Correct footwear
  - Adjusting for inclement weather
  - Rushing
9. Don’t Forget About Disposal

Landfills, transfer stations and MRFs are challenging work environments:

- Pre-trip on heavy equipment
- Traffic rules – enforce them
- Tipping floor policy
- High visibility for everyone
- Lighting
- Don’t walk under open tailgate
- Slips/trips/falls
- Frozen loads and swinging doors
10. 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.
SWANA’s expanded Safety Program includes webinars, weekly and monthly safety information, and frequent updates to chapters about accidents in their states. The 2017 Safety Summit included 4 sessions and a meeting of the Safety Ambassadors.

- Safety Monday
- Slow Down to Get Around stickers
- Safety Ambassadors in chapters
- Fatality info to chapters
- New classroom safety/compliance training
- 2017 Safety Awards @WASTECON!
- #SWANAsafety
Safety Matters Website

• 5 to Stay Alive
• Backing Best Management
• NGV White Paper
• Safety Monday Archive
• Safety Quick Links & Resources
• Slow Down to Get Around Decals
• Upcoming Events
• And More!
Ohio Initiatives

- Collaboration Between nearby Safety Ambassadors (PA., Kentucky, Ind., Mi.)
- Implement a Statewide Safety Steering Committee
  - Designed to promote SWANA statewide thru Safety
- Slow Down To Get Around Campaign
  - Work to pass SDTGA into law in Ohio, passed in 12 states
- Small Hauler Outreach
  - How do we reach out to small haulers, persuade them to join SWANA and provide ongoing assistance with their Safety Programs?
Solid waste employees in the United States 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” list and improve your safety performance.
Thank you!

Questions?

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