



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CORRECTING UNSAFE BEHAVIOR IN THE WASTE INDUSTRY

NYC WASTE & RECYCLING SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

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What is SWANA?

SWANA is the association that represents solid waste/recycling professionals in the United States and Canada.

- 8500 members – www.swana.org
- 45 chapters (states/provinces)
 - New York is one of our fastest growing chapters

Key programs:

1. Education/Certification
2. Safety
3. Networking
4. Advocacy



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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.

- **In the United States, waste collection workers have 5th highest fatality rate in the country.**
- **On average, a U.S. waste worker dies each week 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.**
- **Collection worker and MRF injury rates are increasing**

www.swana.org/safety



Safety – New York City

There have been too many fatal accidents involving NYC metro carters over the past year

- March 15, 2016: 55 y.o. Ped hit by turning truck on UES
- Feb 12, 2016: 48 y.o. Ped hit by turning truck - Midtown
- Nov 30, 2015: 84 y.o. Ped hit in Midtown – East 58th
- Nov 28, 2015: Truck t-bones car in Inwood – fire driver/passenger killed
- Sept 21, 2015: Truck backs over 44 y.o. helper on LI

Correcting Unsafe Behaviors

1. Engage Your Drivers and Other Front Line Workers

- Majority of accidents/injuries are caused by unsafe behaviors, not unsafe conditions
- 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 respond better to visual than written safety communication.
 - Youtube/Google

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>

2. 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)
- Rushing - Speed/Red Lights
- Turn Signals
- Cellphone/Texting
- Lockout-Tagout

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

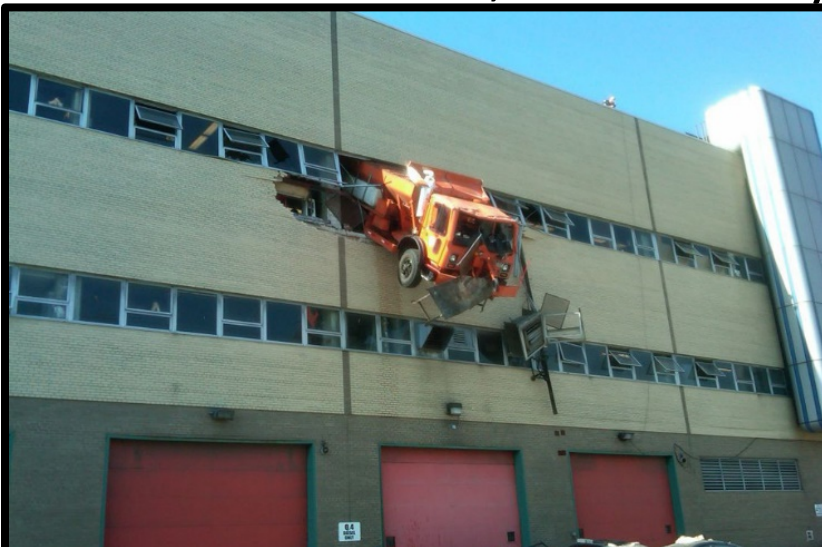
- Communicate importance of safety frequently and consistently
- Weekly/monthly safety meetings
- Get creative with signs, videos and posters



Correcting Unsafe Behaviors

4. Wear a Safety Belt

- **CDL drivers are required to wear a safety belt on the route.**
- **Helpers should also use safety belt when in the cab**
 - especially after the route is completed.
- **If truck overturns, it can save your driver's/helper's life!**



New York City - August 2011

Correcting Unsafe Behaviors

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. PPE – Last Line of Defense

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is often your 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 will continue working with City agencies and others to provide safety resources to NYC carters, DSNY and 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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