



Safety and the Evolving Solid Waste Industry



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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

What is SWANA?

SWANA is the professional association that represents the solid waste and recycling industry in the United States and Canada.

- 8300 members – 60% public sector
- 45 chapters (states/provinces)
- Mid-Atlantic chapter (Md & Del)

Key programs:

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

Solid Waste Industry Profile

- U.S. solid waste industry is a \$60-70B business.
- 75% private sector; 25% local govt's
 - 5 national companies and 6,000-8000 haulers
 - Waste travels by truck/rail/barge, often crossing state lines
 - 250 million tons generated annually
 - 54% landfill, 34% recycled, 12% WTE



Solid Waste Industry Profile

The solid waste industry includes 120,000 trucks, 1,900 landfills, more than 3,000 transfer stations, nearly 1,000 recycling facilities, and 85 WTE plants.

Fun Facts:

- More than ½ of the new trucks use NG.
- 650 landfills generate renewable energy.
- Much of the recyclables goes overseas.



Emerging Trends in Solid Waste

The solid waste sector is evolving to meet the needs of policymakers and their customers.

- Increased emphasis on diverting material away from landfill or WTE and treating waste as a resource; connection between Climate Change/GHG and waste
- Recycling:
 - Single Stream recycling/glass
 - The Green Fence/China
 - Contamination/education
- Food waste/organics – the next frontier
- E-waste/plastic bags



Emerging Trends in Solid Waste

Extended Producer Responsibility or Product Stewardship – making manufacturers responsible for disposing/processing the products they produce.

- Automobile switches
- Batteries
- Mattresses
- Carpet
- Paint
- Pharma waste

www.productstewardship.us

Maryland Solid Waste

Maryland generated 12.5 million tons of solid waste in 2012

- 45% waste diversion rate
- 31% of waste is exported to other states (VA, PA)
 - MD is 1 of the biggest waste exporters in U.S.
- 303,000 tons imported into MD – mostly C&D
- 22 MSW landfills; 4 C&D/rubble landfills; 23 TS's
- 8 permitted WTE facilities
- Landfill capacity: MSW 36 years
C&D 25 years

Maryland has a waste diversion goal of 60% by 2020

Solid Waste - Safety

Solid waste collection/disposal is a high hazard industry: The federal government reports collection workers have 5th highest fatality rate in the country.

- Likely undercounts (temps, public sector)
- Rate and numbers has increased since 2009
- Overall, about 1 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)

- There were at least 60 fatal accidents in which a third-party was killed in 2014.

Solid Waste - Safety

Injury and accident rates in the waste industry are high as well.

Solid waste injury rate – collection 6.3; landfill 5.2

- Rates increasing since 2008-2009
- National injury rate was 3.3
- 10,800 reported injuries and illnesses in 2013!
- Public sector workers have higher rate than private

Thousands of accidents, truck fires, landfill fires, etc. annually





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Solid Waste - Safety

There are many causes of accidents/injuries in the waste industry:

- Backing
- Rear end collisions
- Intersections
- Head on – crossing double yellow
- Lifting/Pushing
- Truck tipovers
- Lockout Tagout (LOTO)
- Sharps/medwaste/chemicals in trash

Solid Waste - Safety

Distracted drivers have become an increased risk to solid waste vehicles and personnel

Industry developed a public education program to address this new hazard:

- Truck stickers/Video
- State laws
- Outreach to drivers and public officials



Solid Waste - Safety

There are solutions for most safety issues: **Engage 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
- Get visual – use photos and video to reach employees.

Solid Waste - Safety

What behaviors are we trying to change?

1. Rushing/speeding
2. Texting/cell phone use
3. Seat belt
4. Wearing PPE – safety vest
5. Lifting/riding on side



Goal is to get front line to make better decisions



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Solid Waste - Safety

Employers need to:

1. Provide initial and refresher training
2. Perform route/job observations
3. Coach/discipline
4. Communicate that safety is important
5. Investigate accidents/injuries
6. Medical management – light duty programs

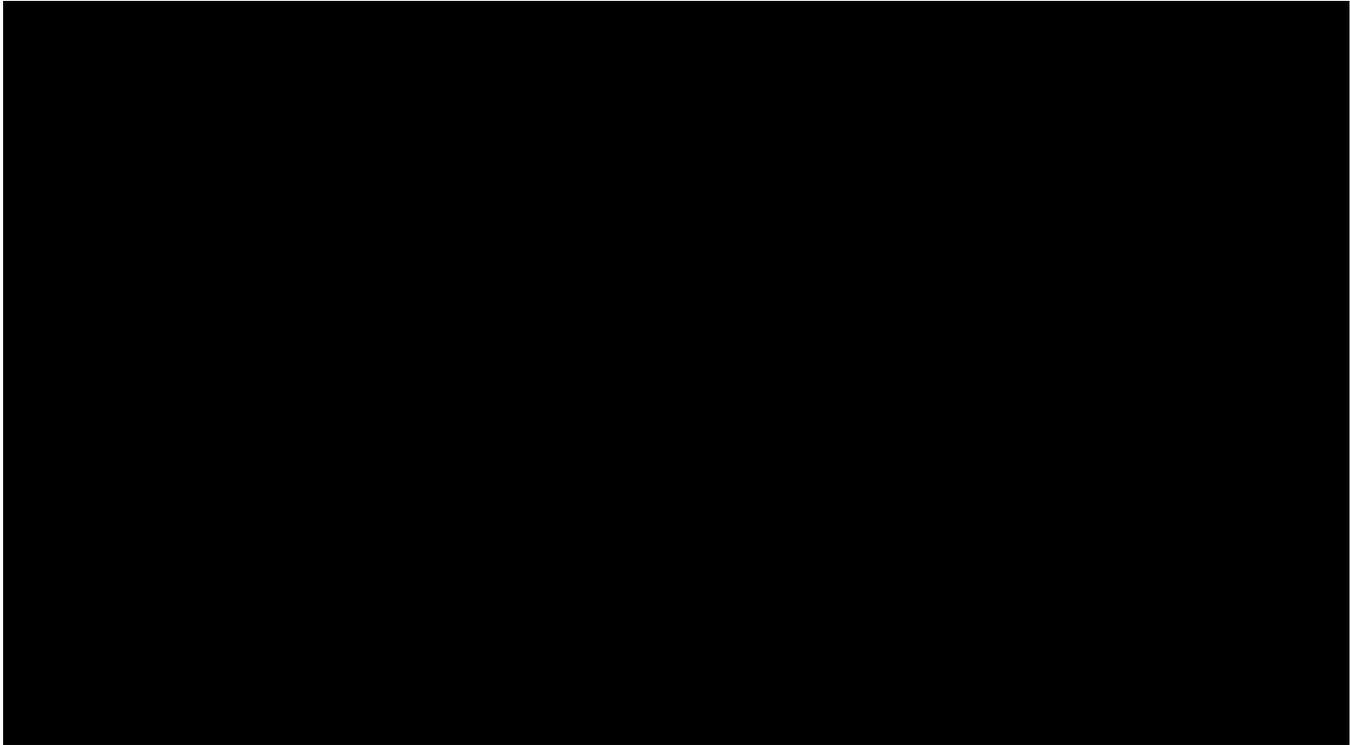


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Solid Waste - Safety

Everyone's favorite safety video:





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Solid Waste Safety - SWANA

What is SWANA doing to improve safety?

- Safety Monday
- Safety Matters
- Reporting on Fatal accidents
- WASTECON Safety Summit
- Webinars – Oct 29, 2015
- Meeting with OSHA
- Partnering with others
- 2016: training at HQ, data collection/analysis

Solid Waste Safety - SWANA

SWANA intends to promote Slow Down to Get Around in Maryland/D.C. in 2016.

- City of Baltimore DPW supports
- DC DPW wants SWANA to host event
- Goal is to increase awareness in Maryland and potentially lay groundwork for legislative action in 2016-17

We need you to help spread the word!



Safety – Other Resources

There are a variety of other resources available for county managers:

1. [NIOSH](#)
2. OSHA
3. ANSI Z245
4. NWRA
5. Insurance companies/brokers



Conclusion

The solid waste sector is going through significant changes to its operations, and is a high hazard industry. SWANA is expanding its safety program to help reduce accidents and injuries in collection and post-collection.

QUESTIONS????????

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