SAFETY AMBASSADOR PRESENTATION

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Solid waste vehicles are involved in accidents with EVERYTHING:
Fires Continue to be a Problem
Why does SWANA care about safety?

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

- 132 recorded fatalities in the Solid Waste Industry in 2017
- 38 workers on the job in 2017
  - 75% of incidents involve a private sector solid waste company
  - 60% were killed during collection, 21% died at landfills, remainder at MRF’s, transfers, or other locations
  - A disproportionate number of these incidents involved small companies, usually haulers with fewer than 20 trucks in their fleet
- 94 members of the public
  - 57 were drivers or passengers in other vehicles
  - 23 were pedestrians, 8 were bicyclists, 4 were motorcyclists, 2 occurred at disposal facilities
Why does SWANA care about safety?

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

- 98 recorded fatalities in the Solid Waste Industry YTD 8/17/2018
- 39 workers on the job
  - 59% were killed during collection, 18% died at landfills, 5 at MRF’s, 1 at transfers, 3 at other locations
  - A disproportionate number of these incidents involved small companies, usually haulers with fewer than 20 trucks in their fleet
- 59 members of the public
  - 46 were drivers or passengers in other vehicles
  - 5 were pedestrians, 5 were bicyclists, 2 were motorcyclists, 1 was in a dumpster
• 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.
• 8/19/17 – Motorcyclist was killed when trying to pass a municipal refuse truck on left when refuse truck stopped to make a left hand turn.
• 9/1/2017 – Refuse truck broke down on I-90 in Cleveland, Ohio, motorist drove into back of truck and died from sustained injuries
• 10/18/17 – Refuse driver overturned truck in Gates Mill, Ohio while making right turn, refuse driver died at scene.
7/27/18 – Refuse truck was in Chillicothe, Ohio when driver drove into back of truck, killing driver of vehicle

7/30/18 – In Middletown, Ohio driver drove into back of parked refuse truck servicing customer, pinning refuse driver between truck and vehicle, killing refuse driver

7/31/2018 – Transfer Truck was near Christiansburg, Ohio on Ohio 235 when minivan ran stop sign. This incident killed both the driver and passenger of the minivan.
Too Many Injuries and Accidents

- 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.
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
- Speed
- Seat Belts
- Turn Signals
- Backing (ANSI)
- Cellphone/Texting
- Riding Steps (ANSI)
- LOTO
Improving Worker Safety

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
Improving Worker Safety

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.
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 2018 Safety Summit included 3 sessions and a meeting of the Safety Ambassadors.

- Safety Monday
- Hauler Outreach Program
- SWANA Safety Pledge
- Slow Down to Get Around stickers
- Safety Ambassadors in chapters
- Fatality info to chapters
- 2018 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

- **Slow Down To Get Around Campaign**
  - Move over law passes in Ohio and signed by Governor Kasich on July 30, 2018
  - Law will go into effect 90 days from July 30, 2018
  - Start planning now for outreach and education for public awareness
    - We need funding for billboards, commercials, news articles
    - Reach out to social media to get the word out
    - Push campaigns to “Move Over” all over Ohio
Ohio Initiatives

**Hauler Outreach**

- Work with Landfills, Transfer Stations, Recycle Centers, and Compost Facilities to reach out to Haulers that frequent their site for Disposal options
- 1\textsuperscript{st} event held at Montgomery County Transfer Station on July 24 and July 25, 2018
- Montgomery County Staff passed out over 250 booklets to drivers in 2 days and received positive media attention
- Take the SWANA Safety Pledge!
  - Here is the link: [https://swana.org/Safety/Hauler.aspx](https://swana.org/Safety/Hauler.aspx)
- We need volunteer locations across the State of Ohio to schedule these events
  - We would like to schedule multiple events on the same week
Ohio Initiatives

- Implement a Statewide Safety Steering Committee
  - Designed to promote SWANA statewide thru Safety
  - Envision safety professionals across the state to be part of the committee
  - Conference calls monthly to promote a safer workforce in Ohio
Conclusions

- 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.
Questions?

Thank you!

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