



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

THE NEW SWANA: SAFETY FIRST!



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What is SWANA?

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

- **8502 members – record high level!**
 - New member growth up 21%
- **45 chapters (states/provinces)**
 - 5 chapters cover all 10 Canadian provinces

Key programs:

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



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WASTECON!

SWANA holds one of the premier trade shows for the waste industry

-- August 2016 – Indianapolis!

-- Major Safety Summit planned



ISWA – SWANA is the U.S. and Canadian representative to the International Solid Waste Association

- Sept 2015 Climate Change resolution
- Sept 2017 ISWA World Congress/WASTECON in Baltimore





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Renewed Focus on Safety

A critical component of the “new” SWANA is an emphasis on improving safety in the industry.

In the United States, waste collection workers have 5th highest fatality rate in the country.

- Likely undercounts (temps, public sector)**
- Rate and numbers has increased since 2009**
- On average, 1 U.S. waste worker dies weekly 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.**

Solid Waste Safety Data

- **Injury/illness rate also increased in recent years**
 - In 2014, the U.S. reported injury/illness rates:
 - Solid waste collection - 7.1
 - Landfill - 4.9
 - MRF - 8.4
- **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?

Solid Waste Accidents

Solid waste vehicles are involved in accidents with EVERYTHING:



Fires Continue to be a Problem



Safety - Michigan

- **There have been several fatal accidents in Michigan over the few years**
 - March 31, 2015 – Jury awards \$14.4M re fatality of driver
 - March 13, 2015 – head on collision in Ottawa Cty
 - July 2, 2014 – 61 y.o. pedestrian struck in Royal Oak
 - March 2014 – 31 y.o. driver on I-94

Common Safety Issues

- **Michigan 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!



Improving Worker Safety

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 Michigan 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**

4. 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



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 after the route is completed.
- **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?



The National Safety Council (U.S.) recently reported 27% of all crashes involve cell phone use or texting.



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Improving Worker Safety

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?



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
- Truck separation at working face
- High viz for everyone
- Lighting
- Don't walk under open tailgate
- Slips/trips/falls
- Frozen loads and swinging doors





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Improving Worker Safety

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 Safety Program

SWANA's expanded Safety Program includes webinars, weekly and monthly safety information, and frequent updates to chapters about accidents in their states. Our 2015 WASTECON Safety Summit included 6 sessions that attracted 650 individuals interested in reducing accidents and injuries.

- **Safety Monday**
- Slow Down to Get Around stickers
- **Safety Ambassadors in chapters**
- Fatality Info to chapters
- New classroom safety/compliance training
- April 2016 – Collecting injury/accident data
- 2016 – **NEW Safety Awards @WASTECON!**
- Aug 2016 – WASTECON Safety Summit – Indiana
- #SWANAsafety





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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.**



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Questions?

Thank you!

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