



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America



Materials Management:

THE NEXT GENERATION

MRN/SWANA-MA 2016 CONFERENCE





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MINIMIZING RISK AND IMPROVING WORKER SAFETY IN THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY



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What is SWANA?

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

- 8400 members – www.swana.org
- 45 chapters (states/provinces)
 - Maryland is in our Mid-Atlantic chapter

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/recycling collection employees have 5th highest fatality rate in the country.**
- **On average, a U.S. waste/recycling worker dies each week**
- **Disproportionate number of worker fatalities occur at small employers in the private sector (i.e., small companies)**
- **60-80 fatal third-party accidents each year in U.S.**
- **Collection worker and MRF injury rates are increasing**



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Injury Rates

Injury rates for collection and MRF employees are moving in the wrong direction:

	2014	2010	2006
Collection	7.1	5.4	8.0
MRF	8.4	3.4	
Landfill	4.9	5.8	8.0

The national injury rate for all workers is 3.2

DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics - <http://www.bls.gov/bls/safety.htm>

Safety – Maryland

There have been too many fatal accidents in Maryland involving waste/recycling in 2016:

- Jan 19 37 y.o. Driver exiting Beltway hits truck – P.G.
- Mar 8 61 y.o. Driver - backing truck at LF – Baltimor
- June 6 60 y.o. Bicyclist hit by turning truck in Glen Burnie
- June 16 44 y.o. Driver (stopped) hit by truck in Pasadena





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Safety – Recycling

- **Minimizing risk for recycling workers and facilities is a big challenge**
 - Collection – truck/traffic/material/heat/slips
 - MRF – conveyors/balers/compactors/forklifts
 - People working in close proximity to vehicles, forklifts, conveyors and other machinery
 - Repetitive strain injuries – sorters
 - Falls, falling objects, heavy lifting
 - Lockout-Tagout
 - Machine guarding
 - Exposure to sharp and/or hazardous substances

Management and employees need to focus on safety and compliance as much as on productivity

Correcting Unsafe Behaviors

1. Engage Your 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>

Correcting Unsafe Behaviors

2. Route and MRF Observations

Recycling employers need to observe drivers/helpers/MRF workers to make sure they are complying with applicable laws and working safety. Employers that do observations on a regular basis see a substantial reduction in unsafe behaviors and accidents.

- PPE
- Seat Belts
- ANSI – Riding Steps
- Riding Steps (ANSI)
- Rushing - Speed/Red Lights
- Loose clothing
- Cellphone/Texting
- Lockout-Tagout

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

- Communicate importance of safety frequently and consistently
- Weekly/monthly safety meetings
- SWANA 5 to Stay Alive
- 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.

Correcting Unsafe Conditions

MRF's are a challenging work environment:

- **Trucks coming and going**
- **Forklifts - PA**
- **Bales – Stacking**
- **Conveyors/Balers/Compactors – jams - IN**
- **Noise/Dust – I.H.**
- **Lighting/visibility**
- **Maintenance – cleaning the screens**



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Lockout-Tagout

Lockout-Tagout is a procedure used to ensure machines are shut off and can't restart prior to completion of maintenance

- **Conveyor systems**
- **Balers/Compactors**
- **Forklifts**
- **Trucks**





OSHA Regs/Enforcement

OSHA regulates workplace safety; Md Occupational Safety & Health (MOSH) inspects

▪ **Most common OSHA citations for MRFs**

- Lead, Cadmium, Powered industrial trucks

Biggest citations for MRFs

- Powered industrial trucks
 - 23 inspections; 14 citations; \$11,458 in fines

New e-recordkeeping rule (2017)

Improving Worker Safety

PPE – The 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 waste and recycling workers face on a daily basis, PPE is essential to preventing injuries.

- **Make sure workers are wearing high viz**
 - Too many waste/recycling employees wear dark shirts on routes!



- **Shoes, gloves, hard hats, footwear, glasses, dust masks**
 - Use observations on route/at facility to enforce PPE rules

S A F E T Y M A T T E R S

SWANA's safety program includes

- Safety Ambassadors in chapters
- Municipal data collection
- New awards at WASTECON
- WASTECON Safety Summit
- Safety Monday
- Slow Down to Get Around
- #SWANAsafety



Conclusions

- **Waste/recycling employees in the U.S. have high fatality and injury rates. Our vehicles/facilities have too many fatal accidents.**
- **Successful employers are engaging employees and getting them to change their unsafe behaviors.**
- **SWANA will continue working with members and others to provide safety resources to recyclers in Maryland and all of North America - to help get the industry off the “Top 10” most dangerous jobs list and improve its safety performance.**



Questions?

Thank you!

Need more safety info?

www.swana.org/safety



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