SOLID WASTE SAFETY 2019
Background on SWANA

• SWANA is the largest association for the waste & recycling sector in the U.S. & Canada
  – 10,700+ members
  – 374 in Virginia

SWANA has 46 chapters in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and a new Pacific Basin Chapter

• SWANA’s core programs focus on improving the professionalism of the entire industry – both public and private sector
What’s New in 2019?

• Hauler Safety Outreach
• SWANA Safety Pledge
• OSHA Alliance
• Slow Down to Get Around
• Collaborating on Fire Risks - Lithium Ion Batteries
Hauler Outreach

• Virginia and 5 other SWANA chapters held events in 2019
• Other chapters are planning hauler outreach events for 2020

We need to reach more small haulers. All drivers dump their loads somewhere – This program provides useful safety info to collection workers at LF/TS/MRF/WTE
SWANA Safety Pledge

“I pledge to help everyone get home safe every single day. I will consider worker, customer, and public safety in every decision that I make.

My ultimate mission is to serve the community safely for myself, my company, and those who depend on me. If I cannot do it safely, then I will not do it at all.”

Take the pledge online @ SWANA.org/SAFETY
OSHA Alliance

• SWANA entered into an Alliance with OSHA to provide worker safety and compliance info to employers/workers
  – NWRA is also part of this Alliance
  – 2 year term started Sept 2019

• Assn’s commit to share info, promote OSHA initiatives, distribute industry-specific safety guidance
  – OSHA spoke at WASTECON in Phoenix
• SWANA continues to encourage states to enact SDTGA or “Move Over” laws increasing penalties for hitting industry workers or trucks

• 27 states have now passed these laws
New SDTGA Stickers
• SWANA issued an ARF report on recent DC area WTE fires
• We are getting contacted by state officials
  – Hennepin Cty MN just stopped collecting batteries at libraries
  – Arizona and California interested in banning them from curbside
• SWANA is working with NWRA, EREF and others to:
  – Develop best practices for MRFs
  – Create and issue brief to educate officials and others
  – Scope the extent of the problem
  – Educate public not to put lithium ion batteries in curbside
Fires

• Trucks and disposal facilities are catching on fire with increased frequency
  – Los Angeles 11/1
  – San Diego 11/3
  – Jacksonville 11/4
SWANA has a big and growing safety program:

- Safety Ambassadors in nearly all 46 chapters
- Annual Safety Summit/Safety Awards at WASTECON
- Safety Monday – weekly bulletin
- Five to Stay Alive worksheets
- Frequent chapter summits & training sessions
- www.swana.org/safety
- Partnering with NWRA/ISRI/EREF/NGVA
In the United States, waste/recycling collection workers still have the 5th highest fatality rate in the country:

- Higher than police officers or firefighters
- Fatality rate has increased since 2009 after 10 year decline

On average, 1 U.S. waste worker dies weekly on the job.

Many of these worker fatalities occur at small employers in the private sector (i.e., small haulers).
Unprecedented

- SWANA’s 2018 Safety Report identified 160 fatalities
  - 59 worker fatalities
  - 101 third-parties

Increase largely in collection, mostly on the route.
Possible reasons include:
- Stronger economy, distracted drivers, rushing
Worker Fatality By Location

- **2016**:ON ROUTE 22, LANDFILL 12, MRF 6, OTHER 4
- **2017**:ON ROUTE 24, LANDFILL 8, MRF 2, TRANSFER STATION 2, OTHER 4
- **2018**:ON ROUTE 41, LANDFILL 9, MRF 4, TRANSFER STATION 2, OTHER 4

- **Chart Legend**: 2016 (blue), 2017 (red), 2018 (green)
Injury & Illness Rate

- Landfill
- Collection
- MRF

PER 100 FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

WHO IS HAVING THESE ACCIDENTS/INJURIES?

- Large national companies
- Regional companies
- Small haulers
- Local governments
Communication

What is SWANA telling the industry?

1. Engage the front-line by using pics/video
2. Make Safety Personal for Your Workers

-- Explain why safety should matter to them

3. Review Your Safety Data & look for Patterns

-- Every company/muni is different – routes/trucks/budget

  Most common accidents: backing/rear end
  Most common injuries: strains/sprains & slips/trips/falls
BIG Financial Costs

4. The financial costs of major accidents can easily exceed $1 million (settlement/jury award; legal fees; insurance increases; mgmt time)

- Fla - $20 million jury award – UF bicyclist killed (Dec 2018)
- Mass - $3.5 million settlement – bicyclist killed in Boston (Nov 2018)
- Penn - $6.1 million settlement – bicyclist killed in Philly (Sept 2018)
- Oregon - $13.5 million jury award - Portland ped lost leg (July 2018)
- Conn - $13.6 million settlement w/ hauler - motorcyclist (April 2018)

I'm afraid you're screwed.
5. PPE – Last Line of Defense

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is often an employee’s last line of defense to avoiding an injury. Because waste/recycling workers face a wide variety of hazards, PPE is essential to preventing injuries.

- Make sure all front line workers are wearing high viz
- Shoes, gloves, hard hats, glasses
  - Use observations/cameras on route or at facility to enforce PPE rules.
6. Don’t Forget About Disposal – WTE/TS/LF

Post-collection employees need to be reminded to follow safety rules – it’s a very challenging work environment:

- Traffic direction/speed limits
- Truck separation – tipping floor/working face
- No Scavenging – Stay w/in 6 ft. of vehicle
- Don’t walk under open tailgate
- Slips/trips/falls
- No cell phone use
- PPE – Hi viz/shoes/gloves/glasses
7. Don’t Forget About MRFs

Recycling employees face unique hazards and need to be reminded to follow the rules

- Lockout Tagout
- Bale Stacking
- Forklifts
- Fire Prevention
- Sorters: Hand injuries/clothing
- Slips/trips/falls
8. Use *Safety Monday* and Other Visual Communication Tools

- Communicate importance of safety frequently and consistently
- Hold weekly/monthly safety meetings
- Get creative with your signs, videos and posters
9. Distracted Driving is VERY Dangerous!

- Cell phone
- Texting
- Food and drinks
- 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.
Conclusions

- Solid waste can be dangerous work and employers have a responsibility to provide safety training and information to workers to help them prevent accidents and injuries.

- Successful employers are engaging their employees and getting them to change their unsafe behaviors.

- SWANA wants to help Virginia companies and local governments operate safely, and reduce accidents and injuries.
“Nothing we do is more important!”

Thank you!

www.swana.org/safety

David Biderman
SWANA Executive Director
240-494-2254
dbiderman@swana.org