



**SWANA**<sup>®</sup>

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
of North America

# SOLID WASTE SAFETY 2019





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# 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**



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# 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**





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# 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](http://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





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# SDTGA

- **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**





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# New SDTGA Stickers





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# Fires/Batteries

- **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



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# Fires

- **Trucks and disposal facilities are catching on fire with increased frequency**
  - Los Angeles 11/1
  - San Diego 11/3
  - Jacksonville 11/4



# **SAFETY**



# **MATTERS**

## **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](http://www.swana.org/safety)
- Partnering with NWRA/ISRI/EREF/NGVA

# Worker Fatalities

**In the United States, waste/recycling collection workers still have the 5<sup>th</sup> 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

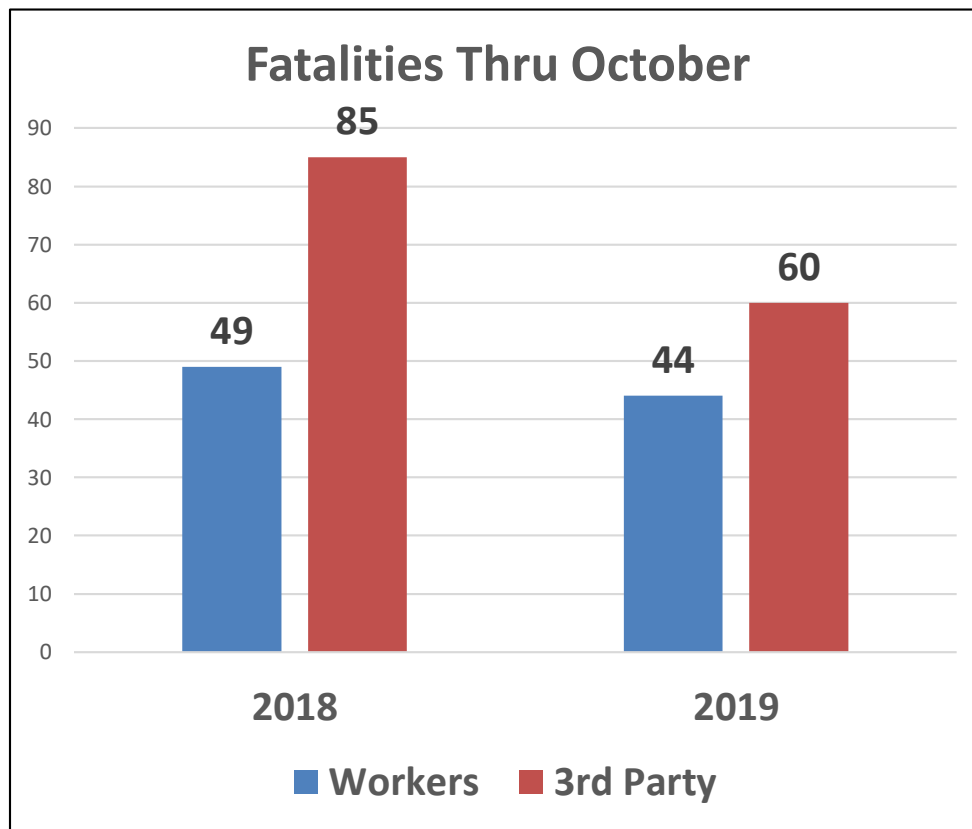
- **SWANA's 2018 Safety Report identified 160 fatalities**

- 59 worker fatalities
- 101 third-parties

Increase largely in collection, mostly on the route.

Possible reasons include:

- Stronger economy, distracted drivers, rushing

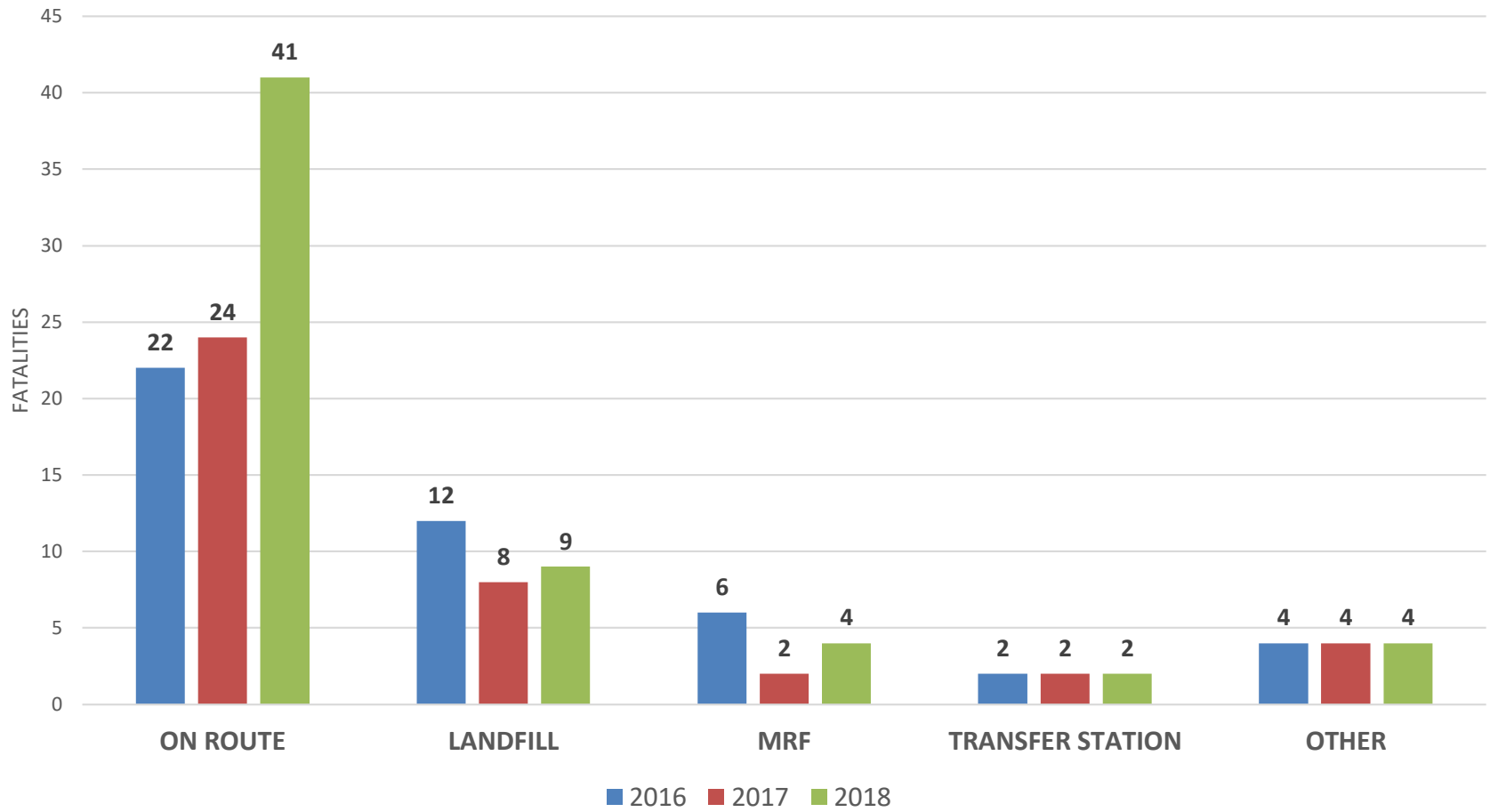




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# Worker Fatality By Location

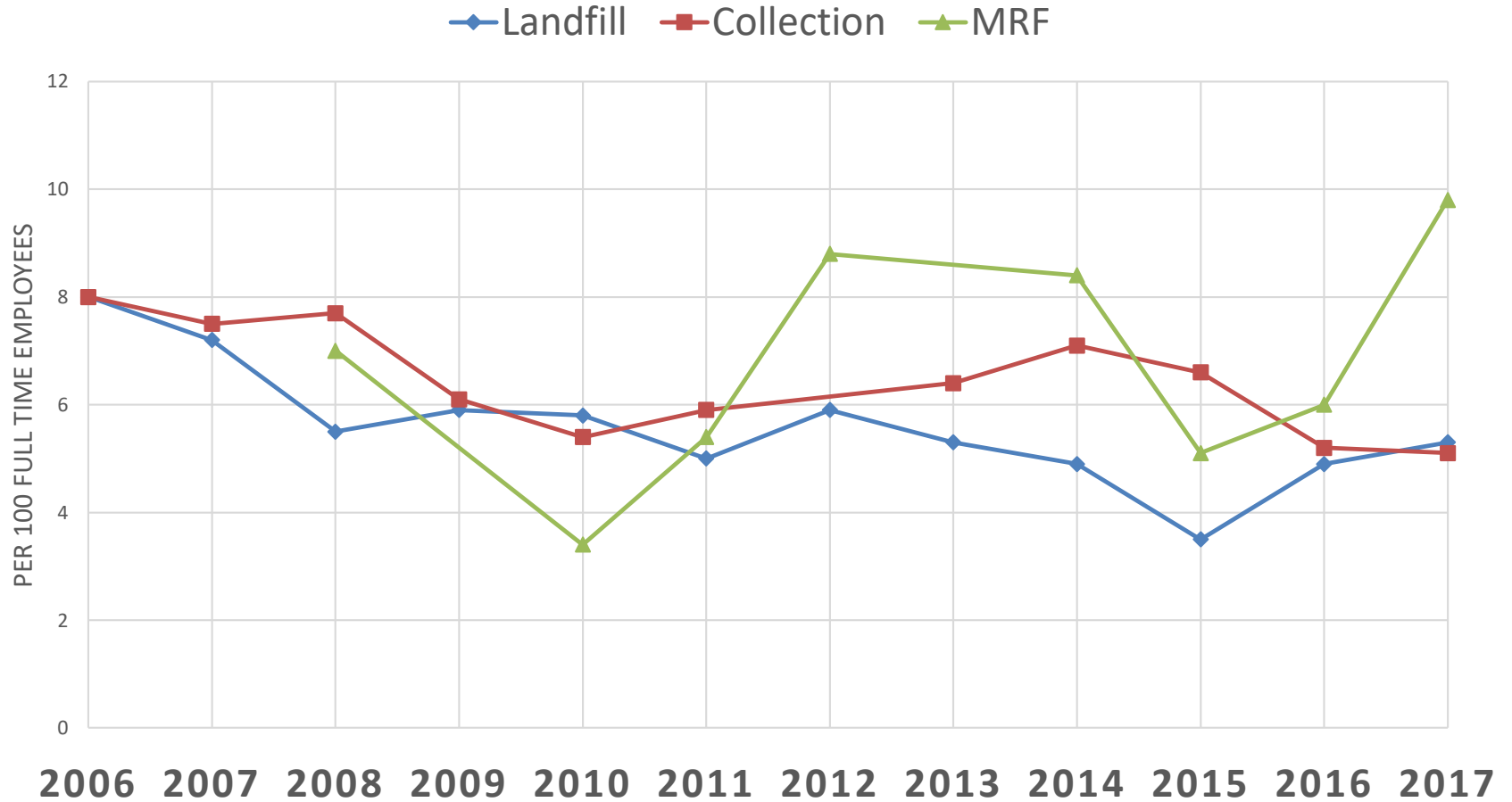




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# Injury & Illness Rate



## WHO IS HAVING THESE ACCIDENTS/INJURIES?

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



## What is SWANA telling the industry?

### 1. Engage the front-line by using pics/video



# Implementation

## 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**



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# 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.

# Implementation

## 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



# Cell Phones and Texting

## 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.**



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# 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**



# Questions?

**“Nothing we do is more important!”**

**Thank you!**

[www.swana.org/safety](http://www.swana.org/safety)

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