



10% were riding the step.

In reviewing data collected from a variety of sources, SWANA found that struck by incidents were the most common cause of fatality overall, followed by collisions and roll over incidents. These represented nearly 50 percent of all worker deaths. About 10 percent of victims were on the riding step when the fatality occurred. The cause of deaths at landfills, MRFs and transfer stations were more diverse than in collection, though being struck by heavy machinery or lockout/tagout (LO/TO) failures were common.



Collection Deaths = 42

SWANA Reports Big Increase in Worker Fatalities in 2018

Association urges additional attention to safety hazards, with focus on collection

Silver Spring, MD – April 24, 2019 – At least 59 solid waste industry workers died on the job in 2018 in the United States and Canada, according to the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), an increase of 19 fatalities from the previous year. Fifty-seven of these fatalities took place in the United States, and 71 percent of them occurred during waste or recycling collection.

Slow Down To Get Around

Slow Down to Get Around (SDTGA) is a national safety campaign that reminds motorists to drive more carefully when near waste and recycling collection vehicles. Being struck by a motorist is a leading cause of death for waste and recycling collection employees, and with proper awareness, is completely preventable.

Slow Down to Get Around is also the name commonly applied to legislation that requires motorists to slow down or move over when passing waste and recycling vehicles that are in the process of collection. Since the start of the campaign, at least twenty states have enacted some type of SDTGA law to help protect solid waste workers out on the job.

- Alabama
- Arizona
- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- lowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri

- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin



Slow Down To Get Around

SWANA offers other safety tips for sanitation workers: Wear personal protective equipment, especially high-visibility vests and/or outerwear. Don't use cellphones while driving garbage trucks or at disposal facilities. Buckle up.

MRFs = 3

Three workers died on the job in MRFs





Landfills operations represented the second most deadly, with eight recorded employee deaths last year.



Transfer Station = 2

Two in transfer stations and four in all other types of incidents.

