

# SWANA INAUGURAL SAFETY SUMMIT

## WASTECON 2013

### LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

## 7 Ways to Improve Worker Safety

- **Engage Your Workers** – Most accidents are caused by unsafe behaviors. Figure out how to motivate your employees to change these behaviors by making safety a personal issue for them. Change the safety culture at your workplace.
- **Review Your Data** – Figure out the most common types of injuries and accidents you are having. Look for patterns; do you have more on certain days, or times of the day, or at specific locations? Since every fleet and safety culture is different, it is essential to identify your own problem areas.
- **Job Observation** – Managers and supervisors need to observe front line workers to make sure they are working safely and complying with company rules and applicable laws. This is particularly important on the route, where most of the serious incidents take place.
- **Safety Belts** – In most states, drivers are required to wear a safety belt on the route. These safety devices can be the difference between being shaken up by a truck rolling over or a fatal accident.
- **Distracted Driving** – An increasing percentage of truck crashes involve someone talking on the cell phone or texting. It is illegal for a truck driver operating in interstate commerce to text or to use a hand held cell phone while driving. If you have a distracted driving policy, enforce it. If you don't have such a policy, you can find one in the WASTECON proceedings.
- **Backing and Rear-End Collisions** – These are the two most common types of vehicular accidents involving garbage and recycling trucks. Often, rushing or not using the backup camera or mirrors contributes to these accidents.



# Safety Information Resource Materials



**Occupational Safety & Health Administration**  
**United States Department of Labor**  
<https://www.osha.gov/>

**Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety**  
<http://www.ccohs.ca/ccohs.html>

**The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)**  
**Solid Waste Workplace Safety & Health Topics**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/solidwaste/>

**SWANA Lone Start Chapter Safety Links**  
[http://www.txswana.org/Safety\\_SMART\\_links.html](http://www.txswana.org/Safety_SMART_links.html)

**Slow Down to Get Around Campaign**  
<http://www.environmentalistseveryday.org/solid-waste-management/environmental-waste-garbage-safety-first/waste-collection-employee-safety.php>

**Be Safe, Be Proud**  
**OSHA-Funded Safety Videos**  
<http://www.environmentalistseveryday.org/solid-waste-management/environmental-waste-garbage-safety-first/waste-safety-be-safe-be-proud.php>

**EIA Manual of Recommended Safety Practices**  
**Revised 2013**  
<http://www.environmentalistseveryday.org/docs/store-order-forms/SafetyManual2013.pdf>

**More safety resources, as well as an online version of this handout, are available in the proceedings for WASTECON® 2013 at [www.swana.org/WCProceedings](http://www.swana.org/WCProceedings).**  
**Please see your attendee badge for login information.**

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SWANA would like to thank the sponsors of the Inaugural Safety Summit. Our gratitude goes out to **tarpARMOR** and **Bayne Lift Systems**.