Hazards in Sanitation

Presented by:
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Agenda

• Introduction
• Sanitation Fatalities
• Regulatory Requirements
• Other Sanitation Hazards
Discussion

• What do you think are some of the most fatal jobs?

• Where does Refuse Collection rank?

• Why?
Sanitation Fatalities

• U.S. Department of Labor Statistics ranked refuse collection as the 6th most fatal occupation for 2012

• In 2013, CSEA lost 2 members while performing sanitation jobs
1997 NIOSH Alert

450 Sanitation Fatalities, 1980-1992

- 67% Vehicle Related
- 24% S/T/F
- 5% Backing
- 4% Other
Regulations?

Is there a regulation that covers refuse collection operations?

OSHA?

PESH?

Now what?
OSHA General Duty Clause

- Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act

- Employers are required to provide a place of employment that “is free from recognizable hazards that are causing or likely to cause death or serious harm to employees.”

- Used where there is no standard that applies to the particular hazard

- Must be based on a consensus standard
PESH

• In 2006, PESH issued a staff directive to be used for inspections and consultations involving refuse collection vehicles.

• This directive includes standards and recommendations from:
  • ANSI – American National Standards Institute
  • NSWMA – National Solid Waste Management Assoc.
  • NIOSH – National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
PESH Directive

- The **ANSI** safety standards, which address safe operation and construction of equipment and includes recommendations for rider and pedestrian safety
- The **NSWMA** safety practices, which contain detailed procedures for backing safely
- The **NIOSH** Alert Notice, which addresses the serious hazards associated with refuse collection and handling equipment
- The manufacturer’s operating/use/maintenance instructions for the equipment or vehicle being used
Safety Program

• Written program with a hazard assessment

• Job specific training at initial assignment and with equipment changes

• Training specific to the types of equipment used

• Make manufacturers instructions available
Vehicle/Truck Safety

- No equipment/vehicle should be modified without the manufacturers permission

- Riding steps should provide a self-cleaning, slip-resistant surface that is at least 220 square inches, and capable of supporting 500 lbs. The step should be at least 8 inches deep, mounted behind the rear axle of the vehicle, and not more than 24 inches above the road surface.

- Grab handles capable of withstanding a 500 pound pull should be provided along with the riding steps.
• Warning signs should be posted above the riding steps to prohibit their use when travelling at speeds above 10 mph or when backing.

• The vehicle should be equipped with an audible warning device which activates when the vehicle is operated in reverse. The alarm should activate before the vehicle moves, when the transmission is shifted to reverse.

• The cab of the vehicle must be large enough for all riders between routes.
Clothing and Footwear

• All workers near an active roadway must wear an ANSI approved Class 2 high visibility garment (working at night may require a Class 3 garment).

• Collectors should wear slip resistant footwear, to protect against slips and falls from riding steps.
Riding

• Ride in cab between routes

• Riding steps only used when driving forward, no more than 0.2 miles in between stops, not exceeding 10 mph

• Riding steps only used when adequate clearance is available

• Riding steps not used when vehicle is backing

• Drivers should avoid sudden stops that could cause step riders to fall from the vehicle
Boarding/Dismounting Riding Steps

- Collectors should step, not jump, on or off the steps.

- Collectors should board or dismount from the steps only when the vehicle is completely stopped and the driver is aware of the collector’s location.

- Drivers should wait for collector’s signal before moving. Signals should be uniform or a buzzer should be provided.
Backing

For Drivers:

• Turn on hazard lights
• Roll down window
• Turn off all but two-way communication radios
• Check to assure riding steps are clear
• Visually locate all collectors to assure they are clear
• STOP backing if visual contact is lost with a collector; resume only when collectors are visible.
• If needed, use a collector as a spotter
• Use only designated hand signals or radios
Backining

For Collectors:

• Exit the riding platform before the vehicle starts backing

• Remain inside the cab, or in sight of the driver, unless needed as a spotter

• Never go behind the vehicle when the vehicle is backing or when the backup lights/alarm are on
For Spotters:

- Maintain visibility with the driver
- Maintain clear view of the hazard
- Stay clear of the vehicle path
- Avoid walking backward
- Make sure the riding steps are clear
- Immediately signal the driver if the travel path is obstructed
- Stop the driver for spotter repositioning
Loading and Compacting

• Stand to the side of the hopper when compacting to avoid:
  • Projectiles
  • Liquids
  • Toxic gases, vapors or steam

• For heavy pieces of refuse, use a two person lift system
What other hazards do Sanitation Workers face?
Chemical Hazards

- Paints and solvents
- Household chemicals
- Asbestos
- Incompatible substances in hopper
- Unknowns
Biological Hazards

• Medical waste

• Blood

• Human and animal feces

• Animal Carcass’

• Rabies (live animals)

• Insects - Bed bugs, fleas, stinging insects, mosquitos
Physical Hazards

- Heat/Cold Stress
- Back, muscle, joint injury
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Workplace violence
Roadway

- Traffic
- Weather
- Clearance
- Terrain
Safety Concerns?

- Contact unit or local President, Labor Relations Specialist, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, or the Occupational Safety and Health Department at (800) 342-4146