



SAFETY MONDAY

October 1, 2012

Snakes and Bears

One of the recurring themes in *Safety Monday* is that front-line workers always need to be prepared to face the unexpected. Solid waste industry workers, especially drivers and helpers, need to be ready for everything and anything.

Last month in northern Illinois, a front-end load driver found a 12-foot Burmese python at an industrial customer near Waukegan. The snake was taken into custody by animal control officials, who speculated the snake had been someone's exotic pet. This is not the first time in recent years that a collection worker was surprised to find a snake in or near the trash; a Rumpke driver found a snake in the back of the truck a few years ago after dumping a container at a fast food restaurant.

Other animals are attracted to the trash. Last year, a bear took a well-publicized ride in a garbage truck in [Vancouver](#), and bears recently have been reported knocking over trash containers in [California](#).

When you're on the route, you always need to beware the texting motorist and follow the ANSI rules for the riding steps. Also watch out for snakes, bears, and other unusual hazards.



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