



SAFETY MONDAY

September 10, 2012

Overcorrecting

One of the ways that collection workers get killed or seriously injured in the solid waste industry is when a driver tries to change the direction of the truck and overcorrects, forcing the truck off the side of the road or to overturn. Garbage trucks are not cars, and quick movements of the steering wheel can result in a serious accident.

Overcorrecting was the likely cause of two fatal accidents last month. In Montana, a driver's truck reportedly drifted off the road, and the driver overcorrected to the left, causing a container to tip over and separate from the cab. The driver then overcorrected to the right, causing the cab to roll over down a steep embankment. In Florida, a residential driver overcorrected when his truck went off the road, and the truck turned over, killing the helper in the cab (who was on route and not wearing a safety belt).

The best defense against overcorrecting is to not do the thing that forces a driver to overcorrect. Pay attention at all times. Drive at a sensible speed. Don't rush. And when you think you need to correct your driving, don't overcorrect. Garbage trucks aren't race cars – they are big and heavy, and can tip over if not driven properly.




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