



POINTS OF INTEREST

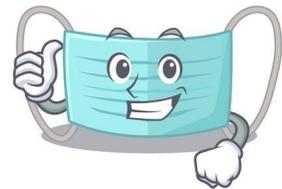
- **CONFERENCE SURVEY**—We are in the planning stages for the upcoming 2020 Annual conference in Brookings. We are monitoring the COVID-19 situation and before things are finalized, we would like to hear from YOU! Please answer some questions in a short survey to let us know your thoughts about the conference. You can find the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLQBWVY>
- Nominations are now being accepted for the **2020 Annual SDSWMA Awards!** Awards include Career Achievement, Innovation, Local Champion, and Hall of Fame. If you have a nomination or would like to nominate someone, please email the name and brief description to Melissa at sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com.
- Nominations are also being accepted for the **2020-2021 SDSWMA Board of Directors.** If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board of Directors, or as Vice President, please email the name and brief description to Melissa. There are **THREE** 3-Year positions and **ONE** 1-year position open on the Board.

2020 Annual Conference and Trade Show

Joint us for a “Mask-erade Party” at the
2020 Annual Conference & Trade Show!

WHEN: September 22-24, 2020

WHERE: Brookings Inn
2500 East 6th Street
Brookings, SD 57006



A block of hotel rooms are available at the Brookings Inn. You may book your room NOW by calling (605) 692-9471 and ask for the SD Solid Waste Association group rate.

TOPICS: Some of the topics will include:

- Current State of Recycling
- Debris in Single Stream Recycling, Roundtable Discussion
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
- Wind Turbine Blade Disposal at Sioux Falls Landfill
- COVID-19 Short-Term and Long-Term Impacts
- Debris Management from Delmont, Wessington Springs, and Sioux Falls Tornadoes
- Facility Tours at Brookings Landfill, Cooks Recycling, and Daktronics

CALL FOR SPEAKERS/TOPICS: If you have a topic or would like to see something discussed, please let us know via email at sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com or by calling (605) 216-3256!



What Waste Collectors and Recyclers Need to Know about COVID-19

Updated May 7, 2020, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/waste-collection-recycling-workers.html>

For waste collectors and recyclers, potential sources of exposure include having close contact with a coworker or member of the public with COVID-19, or by contacting surfaces touched or handled by a person with COVID-19.

- Notify your supervisor and stay home if having symptoms.
- Follow CDC-recommended steps if you are sick. You should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.
- Follow CDC recommended precautions and notify your supervisor if you are well but have a sick family member at home with COVID-19.
- Limit close contact with others by maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet when possible.
- CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. Cloth face coverings may prevent people who don't know they have the virus from transmitting it to others. These face coverings are not surgical masks or respirators and are not appropriate substitutes for them in workplaces where masks or respirators are recommended or required.
- Practice routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, such as steering wheels, door handles, levers, and control panels. Key times for cleaning include: At the beginning and end of every shift, and after anyone else uses your vehicle or workstation
- Wear your normal personal protective equipment (PPE) as you go about your day. This may include work gloves, eye protection (such as safety glasses), and a work uniform or coveralls.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant to clean eye protection at the beginning and end of your shift.
- Replace work gloves when they become damaged (for example, if they are ripped or torn).
- Practice proper hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette. These are important infection control measures. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Key times to clean hands include: Before and after work shifts and work breaks; After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; After using the restroom; Before eating or preparing food; Before putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings
- Avoid contact with body fluids, if possible. Use gloves if you have to touch surfaces contaminated by body fluids.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Be extra careful when putting on or taking off PPE.
- Stay up to date on your company's current policies on COVID-19. Follow the social distancing guidance provided by your employer.

Reduce transmission among employees

Take steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if an employee is sick.

- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home.
- Sick employees shouldn't return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.
- Provide employees with accurate information about COVID-19, how it spreads, and risk of exposure. Be aware that some employees may be at higher risk for severe illness, such as older adults and those with chronic medical conditions. Implement specific policies to minimize face-to-face contact between these employees or assign work tasks that allow them to maintain a distance of 6 feet from other workers, customers, or visitors.

What Waste Collectors and Recyclers Need to Know about COVID-19 (cont.)

- Provide employees training on proper handwashing practices, cough and sneeze etiquette, and other routine infection control precautions. This will help reduce the spread of many diseases, including COVID-19.
- Provide employees access to soap and clean running water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol at their worksite, which may include inside a vehicle.

Maintain a healthy work environment

Institute measures to physically separate and increase distance between employees and customers, such as:

- Rearrange workstations so that employees can stay at least 6 feet away from other employees.
- Stagger shifts, start times, and break times to reduce the number of people in work and break areas at one time.
- Remove or rearrange chairs and tables, or add visual cue marks, in employee break rooms to support social distancing practices between employees. Identify alternative areas to accommodate overflow volume.
- Communicate through use of text messaging, phone, and email and personal mobile phones to communicate instead of face-to-face contact.
- Cancel or postpone in-person meetings and trainings whenever possible. If you must meet, spread out to a distance of 6 feet or more between attendees.
- If possible, limit waste collectors to one person per truck.
- Place posters that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and proper hand hygiene practices at the entrance to the workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.
- Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles for use by employees.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the facility or vehicle. If the surfaces are visibly dirty, clean them prior to disinfecting. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, diluted household bleach solutions prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and ensure products are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's directions for use.
- Clean and disinfect at the beginning and end of each shift, particularly if tools, workstations, or vehicles are shared among workers. In facilities, these may include shared equipment such as cart handles, knives or other tools, buttons, levers, and in vehicles, these could include the steering wheel, gearshift, signaling levers, door handles, and seatbelt buckles.
- Conduct frequent cleaning of employee break rooms, restrooms, and other common areas.
- Require employees to clean out lockers nightly to facilitate overnight deep cleaning processes.
- Provide disposable disinfectant wipes so that surfaces commonly touched can be wiped down.
- Follow all applicable worker safety and health federal regulations and public health agency guidelines.



Weathering the Essential: A Look Inside the COVID-19 Impact on the Waste and Recycling Industry

June 8, 2020

<https://www.waste360.com>

After several months in quarantine, America is beginning to slowly reopen; restarting the economy and attempting to put more than 30 million unemployed Americans back to work. Although states are now beginning to lift restrictions, Americans have sat at home, finding freedom on local greenways or parks rather than movie theaters and bars. Local eateries have been closed, group events like concerts and sports have been postponed or canceled and retail stores have sat empty, aside from those managing curbside pickup.

While a number of industries have slowed to a halt, many waste industry employees find themselves on the frontlines, essential to our daily lives protecting human health and the environment. While being essential means staying operational, it is not without its own set of challenges, such as changes in the waste stream and keeping employees safe. With Americans staying home and businesses producing less waste, how has the industry been impacted?

The Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF) and the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) initiated a survey to learn how the industry has been affected and how it has dealt with the new challenges. The survey was sent to a database of waste industry employees or an affiliated field, such as solid waste academia.

KEY OUTCOMES

The following five sectors represented three-quarters of the respondents in this survey:

- Waste haulers (21 percent)
- Consulting firms (16 percent)
- Municipalities (13 percent)
- Government agencies (e.g., state/federal) (13 percent)
- Academic institutions (12 percent)

In the next three to nine months, staffing is anticipated to account for the greatest short-term impact, followed by supplies and changes in contracts. As for the long-term impacts (i.e., those extending to 2021 and beyond), staffing issues and supplies are expected to be of continued concern, and renewal of contracts are expected to account for 25 percent of company concern. This mirrors increasing commentary and economic forecasts that suggest the longer it takes to deal with the pandemic, the longer it will take for the economy to recover.

One-fifth (20.8 percent) of respondents indicated that employees had not expressed concerns related to their health at work. Of those who did, employees were most concerned about exposure to the virus while working. This includes exposure from contagious employees, interactions with vendors and an inability to remain socially distant.

The top five concerns expressed by employees were:

- Exposure on the job
- General concern of safety/health or fear of catching the virus (not particularly job-related)
- Having proper PPE and related supplies
- Job security or reduced work hours
- Exposure during waste collection/management

While municipal employees were more vocal about their concerns about the coronavirus, one-third of waste haulers who responded to the survey received concerns from employees about exposure risks during collection and management of municipal solid waste.

Weathering the Essential: A Look Inside the COVID-19 Impact on the Waste and Recycling Industry (cont.)

Social distancing at the workplace, working from home and implementing additional cleaning and sanitizing measures were the top practices used by companies to keep employees safe. Two-thirds of employers have implemented three or more measures to protect employees, while fewer than 1 percent have implemented no measures. Some companies allow employees to work from home, obviating the need for some of these practices, such as social distancing.

Nearly 70 percent of respondents indicated they saw changes in specific waste streams, with residential waste expectedly undergoing the largest increase. The remaining 30 percent consisted of food, yard, commercial, medical, construction and demolition (C&D) and industrial waste, in that order. On the other hand, 67 percent of respondents saw a decrease in commercial waste.

Contrary to what some might expect, more respondents noted a decrease in medical waste than an increase. Anecdotal observations via discussions with medical personnel suggest that while localized COVID-19 “hotspots” could result in increased medical waste volumes, the majority of the U.S. has seen reductions in medical waste. Healthcare workers suggest this could be due to a large portion of the population working at home, which may impact the frequency of situations requiring medical care. Elective surgeries were canceled and telehealth services have increased. Many doctors and dentists closed their offices to routine care and are only now beginning to reopen. In addition, COVID-19 patients do not generate significant amounts of medical waste. (April 2020)

Despite the changes in volume of the waste streams, 83 percent of survey respondents indicated that they are not handling any waste differently. Of those who are managing waste differently, general municipal solid waste is being managed differently more often than recycling or medical waste streams due to COVID-19 concerns.

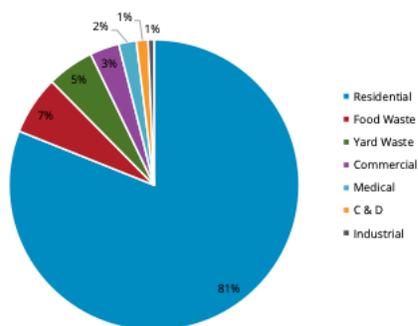
The top four changes being made in how waste is managed are:

- Requiring waste to be bagged or in a container
- Limiting or restricting staff from handling waste or requiring additional PPE for handling materials
- Banning or limiting acceptance of organics, green wastes and C&D
- Stopping or reducing bulky or loose item pickups

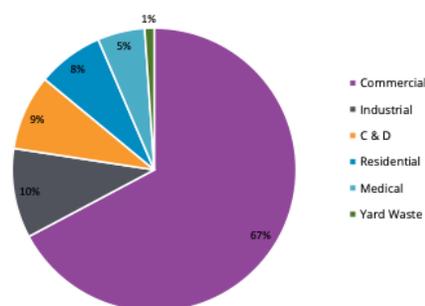
There have been alterations in the way that recycling is being handled. In some instances, recycling is being sent directly to the landfill or minimal sorting is occurring. Some stopped any manual sorting, and others allowed all recyclables to be mixed stopping all sorting. There were a few instances where recycling was stopped completely.

While all 50 states have begun reopening, many opening in phases, the waste and recycling industry is preparing for possible reinfection and a second wave of the coronavirus by making changes to resiliency plans, which existed before COVID-19 made its appearance. With resiliency plans in place, more safety measures being taken and best practices learned, the industry will remain strong well into the future, even if life as we once knew it takes some time to return.

INCREASED WASTE STREAMS



DECREASED WASTE STREAMS



Preventing landfill fires—The alertness of landfill personnel can be a valuable component in preventing fires at these sprawling work sites.

June 16, 2020

<https://www.wastetodaymagazine.com/article/preventing-landfill-fires-waste-today/>



Distant and cynical observers of landfill fires might be tempted to summarize such occurrences with the sentiment, “Nothing of value was lost.” Owners and operators of landfills, however, are keenly aware that a landfill fire is no trivial matter, and that the threats to human health, the environment and adjacent properties are very real.

A smaller scale landfill fire can lead to nuisance complaints and scrutiny from regulatory agencies. Larger and longer-lasting landfill fires have turned into legal sagas that can stretch over

the course of several years.

A major contributing factor to these fires is the flammable and combustible material that is routinely sent to municipal solid waste (MSW) and other landfills. Landfill personnel on the lookout for these sources of trouble thus play a critical role in preventing the chance of a fire-related incident from wreaking havoc on a landfill site.

Trained and on alert

While landfill operations personnel are seldom the cause of a fire, they can play a decisive role in whether or not a fire breaks out or spreads. “The most important tool to prevent hot loads is a comprehensive waste screening and load check program,” says Jason Todaro, the lead solid waste on-site trainer with Mariposa, California-based Blue Ridge Services. “This type of program needs to include all of the landfill staff, from scale house attendants to spotters and even equipment operators,” he adds.

Todaro, who holds a California State Fire Marshall 480-hour Firefighter 1 certificate, says items that can be described as “hot loads” include barbecue equipment, campfire or fireplace ashes, and lithium-ion batteries.

While personnel should always be vigilant for these potential culprits, the summer season can be even more problematic. “Landfill fires tend to be more common between March and August, most likely due to an increase in dryer material and green/wood waste being landfilled,” says Todaro. “In addition, there can be more hot loads, from barbecues, for example,” he continues. “And of course, a hotter ambient outdoor temperature can increase the likelihood of spontaneous combustion.”

Heat accumulation, the oxidation of some materials (including batteries) and the presence of methane gas all can play a role in what is labeled “spontaneous combustion,” according to a 2010 study by American and British researchers.

Regarding inbound material, Todaro suggests, “Staff should ask customers about the content of their loads. Ask customers questions like: Do you have any electronics or batteries? Do you have any fireplace ash or barbecue waste in your load?”

Visual inspection also plays a key role, says Todaro. “Landfill staff also need to keep an eye out for specific types of loads. For example, is the load coming from a campground (potential campfire ash)? Does the load contain a lot of canned chemicals, paints, solvents, etc., that could be flammable or create a spontaneous chemical response that could ignite?”

While it may seem obvious, Todaro says landfill employees should be trained to ask themselves, “As the load comes through the gate or is dumped and spread at the working face, is there visible smoke? Is there a burning smell?”

Preventing Landfill Fires (cont.)

It only takes a spark

The composition of materials arriving at a landfill means a certain percentage can serve as potential fuel if a spark or ember is introduced to this volatile mix.

As Todaro has noted, sometimes that ignition source is smuggled within incoming material in the form of an ember or volatile battery. Other times, however, internal combustion engine vehicles operating at the landfill or making deliveries to it can be the source of trouble. “Trucks, compactors and other equipment can be a potential source of fire if they have a machine fire,” says Todaro. “If a fuel or hydraulic line breaks inside an extremely hot engine, it could then start the entire machine on fire. That machine could then ignite the waste.”

An analysis of highway vehicle fire causes collected by the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System from 2014 to 2016 found that 62 percent of such fires “originated in the engine, running gear or wheel area of the vehicle.”

The agency found that insulation around electrical wiring (29 percent) and flammable liquids in the engine area (18 percent) were common sources of trouble in highway vehicle fires.

Some of these problems also can occur in off-road vehicles or in the trucks delivering waste to landfills. “One way to prevent machine fires is to have an onboard fire suppression system for heavy equipment and trucks,” says Todaro. “It also is really important for operators to do regular maintenance and remove debris and buildup in the engine compartment, undercarriage, wheels, etc.”

Another best practice involves where to deploy on-site equipment when it is not in use. “At the end of the day, equipment should be parked away from exposed waste,” states Todaro. “Ideally, heavy equipment would be parked on top of cover soil.”

Be prepared, but ask for help

Blue Ridge Services offers consulting, training and educational materials specifically pertaining to fire prevention and machine fires—among many other topics. Todaro says the training aspects of responding to a landfill fire, however, emphasize that “it is important to recognize that landfill staff are not first responders.” The same employees who are alert and vigilant should not necessarily be asked to combat a fire themselves.

“While there are situations where landfill staff can fight fires, it’s important to have very clear guidelines about when staff should and shouldn’t [do so],” states Todaro. “We do have clients that involve local fire departments in the fire plan for their landfill,” says Todaro. “We definitely recommend this because firefighters, in general, are more experienced with structure fires, vehicle fires and wildfires, but very few have ever dealt with a landfill fire, especially if it is a subsurface landfill fire.”

Surface fires and subsurface fires can be different animals, says Todaro, that can “respond differently to weather conditions, like high winds.” Subsurface fires can be problematic in the long term.

An analysis of several dozen landfill fires by a government agency in the United Kingdom found that “approximately 57 percent occurred below the surface of the waste and 13 percent occurred at the surface. A further 27 percent were the result of bonfires, suspected arson or similar causes.”

Todaro’s advice to all landfill owners is, “It would be very worthwhile to bring your local fire department out to your site, even if it is just to give them a lay of the land.” Such visits, says Todaro, can allow fire departments to determine the answers to such questions as: “Where is the water tank? How do they get to the active face? How do they access the site if it is the middle of the night?”

Landfills may not hold much of value within them, but an alert staff and an informed local fire department can be critical in preventing them from becoming a potential environmental, legal and financial liability.

Senate Recycling Caucus Co-Chairs Carper, Boozman Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Expand CARES Act to Waste and Recycling Collection Services

June 18, 2020

<https://www.waste360.com/recycling/>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Following the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee’s hearing to examine challenges facing the U.S. recycling industry, today, U.S. Senator Tom Carper, top Democrat on the EPW Committee, and Senator John Boozman (R-Ark.), member of the committee – both co-chairs of the Senate Recycling Caucus – introduced bipartisan legislation that would expand the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to cover waste and recycling collection services.

This legislation would allow for waste and recycling collection services to be allowable expenses under the Paycheck Protection Program and eligible for loan forgiveness under the CARES Act.

“As our country continues to grapple with the fallout of China’s Green Fence policy and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, many municipalities and businesses are unable to afford waste and recycling collection services. When recycling becomes unaffordable, recyclables are oftentimes incinerated or piled up in landfills, leaking toxins and polluting the air we breathe. Amid a respiratory pandemic whose effects are exacerbated by air pollution, this is a public health problem Congress cannot afford to ignore,” said Senator Carper, who founded the Senate Recycling Caucus in 2006. “By expanding the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program to include waste and recycling services, we can ensure no Americans are forced to pay out of pocket for these basic services that keep our environment clean and protect our air.”

“I appreciate Senator Carper’s leadership to ensure waste and recycling collection services are eligible for PPP loans. Their employees have been on the frontlines to help keep our neighborhoods clean and minimize the spread of infectious diseases. These small businesses are vital industries and allowing them to qualify for participation in the PPP is important to maintaining this public service,” Senator Boozman said.

The Paycheck Protection Program, created in the CARES Act, provides loans that effectively become grants if the borrower satisfies the forgiveness requirements in their spending of the loan proceeds. To receive full forgiveness, the borrower must spend no less than 75 percent of the loan proceeds on payroll costs and no more than 25 percent of the proceeds on non-payroll covered costs.

The CARES Act specifies that non-payroll costs include mortgage interest, rent, and utilities (e.g. gas, electric, water). However, waste and recycling collections costs are not listed among the covered utility non-payroll costs. Senator Carper and Boozman’s new legislation would designate waste/recycling collection as a non-payroll utility cost.

SWANA Encourages All to Celebrate Waste and Recycling Workers Week

June 15, 2020

<https://swana.org/news/swana-news/article/2020/06/15/>

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) emphasizes the importance of recognizing and appreciating solid waste and recycling workers for their valuable contributions to protect human health and the environment. The week of June 17, Waste and Recycling Workers Week reminds the public to thank all those in the solid waste and recycling industry for their dedication and hard work.

“Perhaps more than ever, we urge everyone to be thankful to waste and recycling workers for the amazing job they are doing keeping communities and neighborhoods safe and clean during the COVID pandemic,” stated David Biderman, SWANA’s Executive Director and CEO.

SWANA Encourages All to Celebrate Waste and Recycling Workers Week (cont.)

“Despite the significant changes over the past few months in waste and recycling generation, and concerns over exposure, local governments, private haulers, recycling facilities, and large companies have all worked well managing America’s discarded materials. I salute the industry for rising to the challenge,” added Biderman.

The importance of solid waste and recycling workers has never been clearer than during these unprecedented times. As essential critical infrastructure workers, the men and women of this industry have been continuing their jobs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of their hard work and sacrifice, SWANA is collaborating with Glad to support sanitation workers across the United States and Canada personally affected by COVID-19 through the Sanitation Workers Support Fund (Fund). The Fund is providing financial assistance to eligible front-line solid waste and recycling collection workers in the United States and Canada adversely impacted by COVID-19.

“The solid waste industry is considered essential, and its workers have been on the front line, without failure, making sure waste is collected and disposed of since the onset of COVID-19. This fund is an important recognition of their contribution to our communities, and is a way of providing support when they are personally impacted by the pandemic,” stated Suzanne Sturgeon, Health & Safety Program Manager for SCS Field Services and SWANA Safety Committee Chair.

The best way to honor Waste and Recycling Workers Week is to ensure that every worker gets home safely every day. That is why SWANA is sending members daily safety resources the week of June 17 in conjunction with National Safety Month. Daily safety tips are also posted on SWANA’s social media every day during the entire month of June. Workplace safety is one of the important topics being discussed at SWANA’s virtual SWANA-palooza online from June 22-25. Sessions will also include the latest industry trends, best practices, and networking to help industry leaders navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

UPCOMING SDSWMA EVENTS

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming workshops and conferences!

- **2021 Spring Workshop—Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Rapid City, SD**
April 6-7, 2021
- **2021 Fall Conference— Kelly Inn Convention Center, Yankton, SD**
September 21-23, 2021
- **2022—SDSWMA/NDSWRA Joint Conference—Holiday Inn Convention Center, Spearfish, SD**
September 20-22, 2022
- **2023 Fall Conference—Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Aberdeen, SD**
September 19-21, 2023



Marked safe from Coronavirus outbreak.

