SWANA Hauler Safety Toolkit & Outreach

This summer, SWANA launched the Hauler Safety Toolkit to educate haulers about safety issues in the solid waste industry and help prevent future incidents. SWANA’s Chapter Safety Ambassadors developed the Toolkit in hopes of reducing the rate of injuries and fatalities for collection workers, who currently have the fifth highest occupational fatality rate in the United States.

The new Toolkit can be found on SWANA’s Safety Matters website at SWANA.org/safety, and is available for free to everyone. The Toolkit can be used as a resource for hosting hauler outreach events at landfills, transfer stations, waste-to-energy facilities, materials recovery facilities, and other sites where haulers of all sizes can be found.

SWANA Chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada are using it as the basis for one-day events designed to get safety messaging directly into the hands of drivers. But, municipalities and companies are encouraged to do their own outreach using the materials as well. The Safety Matters webpage also has many additional resources that can be integrated into outreach efforts as well.

An important part of the new Toolkit is the SWANA Safety Pledge where workers commit to help everyone get home safe every single day. Anyone in the industry is invited to read and sign the pledge online at the Safety Matters page. You can encourage others to take the pledge as well, and if they wish to not sign it, ask them why. You might get some great feedback that you can share with your Chapter Safety Ambassador. Many workers may feel that their opinions about the industry do not matter, but these outreach efforts are meant to change that. The Toolkit designed to get the industry talking about safety, reach the small- to mid-size hauler community, and reduce the accident rate in the industry.

SWANA wants everyone to go home safely, and this is one more way we are working to make sure that happens. There are many ways to teach safety, and though this program may not work with how you operate, it will provide ideas on how you can spread the safety message.

According to Wikipedia, “Safety is the state of being ‘safe’, the condition of being protected from harm or other non-desirable outcomes. Safety can also refer to the control of recognized hazards in order to achieve an acceptable level of risk.”

This is the very definition of what SWANA is always trying to achieve, and the Toolkit is one new way we can do that together.