Safety Tips for Waste Collection Employees

1. Always wear PPE, especially high visibility vests and/or outerwear.

2. Never use your cell phone or text while driving the truck or at a disposal facility.

3. Don’t ride on the step if the truck is BACKING or going forward more than 10 mph or 1/5th mile (≈16 kph or 0.3 km)*.

4. Always comply with safety belt rules.

5. Don’t exceed the speed limit and don’t rush.

*Refer to ANSI Z245.1, Mobile Wastes and Recyclable Materials Collection, Transportation, and Compaction Equipment for additional safety requirements.

SWANA wants you to go home to your family every day.
Top 10 Backing Best Practices

1. **Determine you are fit to drive**
   Be mentally and physically prepared and properly trained

2. **Conduct a thorough pre-trip inspection**
   Take 10 to 15 minutes to check vehicle

3. **Plan ahead and avoid backing if possible**
   If you must back, turn on driver’s side

4. **No helpers on the riding step**
   Helpers should be in cab or visible to driver

5. **Get Out and Look (GOAL)**
   Leave the cab to check surroundings

6. **Start backing within a few seconds after check**
   Conditions change quickly

7. **Use a guide or spotter**
   Should be reliable and well-trained and visible to the driver

8. **Blow the horn**
   Thoughtfully alert those around you before backing and have your window down to better hear surroundings

9. **Utilize technology**
   If equipped, use back-up cameras and other resources

10. **Back slowly and cautiously**
    Use the lowest possible gear or idle speed and do not accelerate