

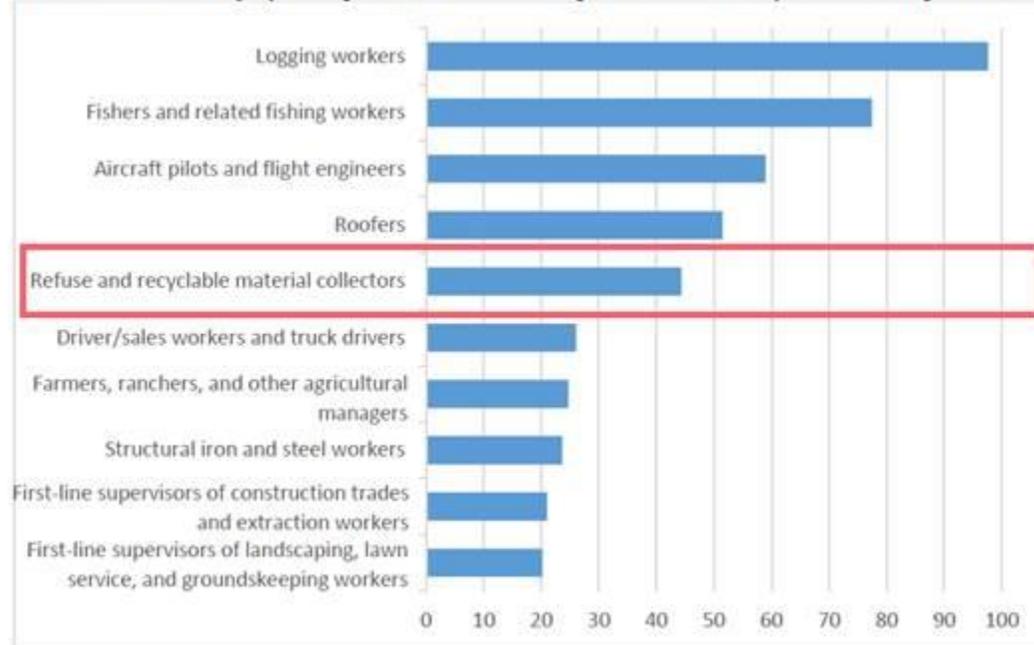


Safety Alert

FROM: Jesse Maxwell, Advocacy & eLearning Program Manager, SWANA
TO: SWANA Chapter Safety Ambassadors; SWANA Safety Committee
DATE: December 17, 2019
SUBJECT: BLS 2018 Industry Fatality Data

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) today released the [2018 National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#), showing refuse and recyclable material collection remains the fifth deadliest job in the United States. By industry category, solid waste collection workers (NAICS 562111) suffered 57 on-the-job fatalities, compared to 32 the year before. This represents a 78 percent increase in deaths in just one year.

Chart 4. Fatal work injury rates per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers by selected occupations, 2018



SWANA was expecting a higher fatality number for collection in 2018 based on its own data which showed at least 40 collection worker fatalities in the United States. The difference between SWANA and BLS likely represents fatalities that occurred among small haulers. We will work with

BLS to identify those additional incidents. This demonstrates the clear urgency of scheduling [Hauler Safety Outreach](#) events in 2020.

Solid waste landfills (NAICS 562212) saw a reduction in fatalities last year, with 3 in 2018 compared to 6 in 2017. There were also 3 worker fatalities at material recovery facilities (MRFs) in 2018, a decrease from 4 in 2017.



In November, BLS released the [2018 employer-reported injury and illness data](#) showing an increase in the solid waste collection employee incident rate and reductions for employees at solid waste landfills and MRFs.

Please share this Alert with your Chapter board, Chapter members, and those you work with. The need for more action is clear, and the first step we can all take is to sign the [Safety Pledge](#). Anyone can do so, not just SWANA members, and so far more than 3,000 people from across North America and the world have signed. Everyone receiving this message should stop and take the time to sign this pledge TODAY if they have not done it yet.

SWANA has added more safety sessions to the program schedule at SWANApalooza on March 23-25 in Atlanta, and we hope that you will attend this [mini-Safety Summit](#), as well as the Safety Ambassadors meeting on Monday March 23 at 2:30 pm. Our next Safety Ambassador call is on January 10 at 2 pm.

We will continue to review the 2018 BLS fatality report and provide further updates as we learn more. In early 2020, a review of SWANA's 2019 fatality tracking will also be released. A Safety Alert will be sent out at that time.

cc: David Biderman



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