

# SANITATION FATAL INJURY FACTS

In upstate New York, 7 workers died while collecting refuse between 2003 and 2005. Below are real-life descriptions of workers who were killed on the job.

A 21-year-old sanitation worker was riding on a garbage truck that was backing down a street. He fell off the back of the truck and was run over by the front wheel.

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A 30-year-old sanitation worker was riding on a garbage truck on a rainy morning when the truck went around a corner. He fell off the truck and struck his head on the pavement.

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A 24-year-old sanitation worker was collecting recyclables while standing on the rear platform of a moving garbage truck. He fell and struck his head.

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Photo Courtesy of IA FACE

A 60-year-old recycling truck driver was working alone collecting recyclables. He slipped beneath the truck's rear wheels and the truck rolled over him.

## HOW CAN THESE ACCIDENTS BE PREVENTED?

- + Drivers should:
  - + Find all workers, either directly or in mirrors, before moving in any direction. Stop backing immediately if you can't see all workers.
  - + Avoid sudden starts or stops that could cause riders to be thrown from riding steps.
  - + Wait for step riders to signal before putting the truck in motion.
- + Other crew members should:
  - + Ride in the cab or a separate vehicle when not on the collection route.
  - + Use riding steps **only** when the truck is moving forward for short distances (<0.2 mi.) at slow speeds (<10 mph).
  - + Ride facing the side of the truck with both hands on the handholds.
  - + Step (**do not jump**) off steps only after the truck has completely stopped.
  - + Wear slip-resistant footwear and avoid narrow cleats or spikes.
  - + Be aware of the driver's blind spot. If you can't see the driver in the mirror, he can't see you.

### New York Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation (FACE)

The NY FACE program is supported by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Additional information can be obtained by contacting: Bureau of Occupational Health, 1-866-807-2130. Full FACE reports can be found at: [www.nyhealth.gov/nysdoh/face/face.htm](http://www.nyhealth.gov/nysdoh/face/face.htm)

New York State Department of Health Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

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