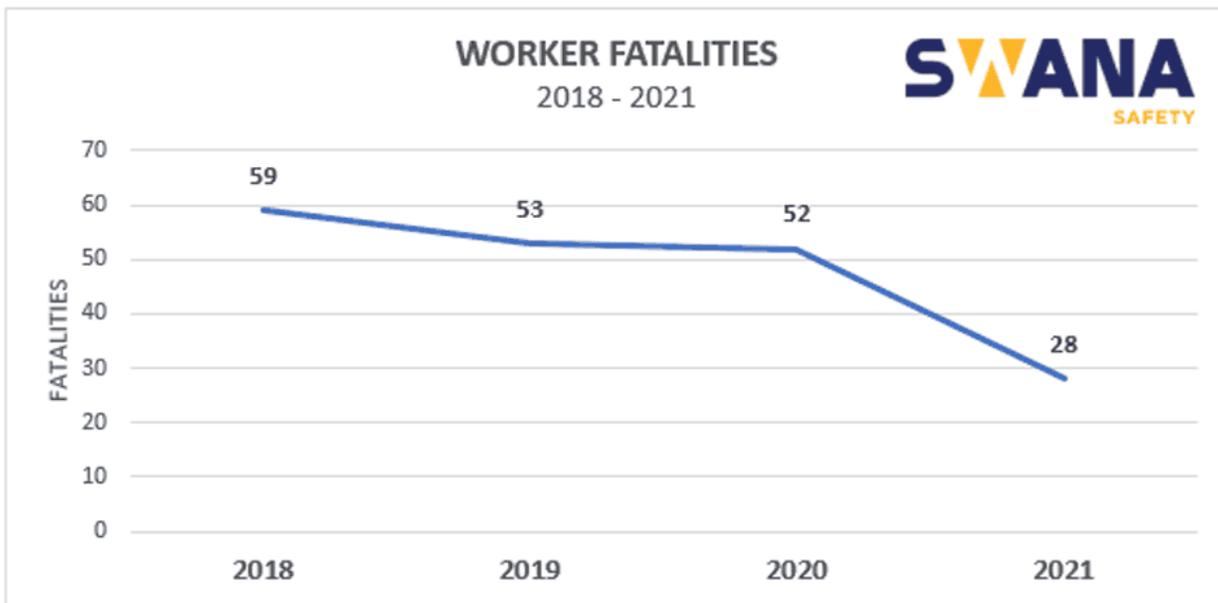




FROM: Jesse Maxwell, Advocacy & Safety Senior Manager, SWANA  
TO: SWANA Chapter Safety Ambassadors; Safety Committee  
DATE: March 18, 2022  
SUBJECT: **SWANA Reports Dramatic Decrease in Worker Fatalities in 2021**

Today, SWANA [reported](#) a significant reduction in solid waste worker deaths in 2021 in the United States and Canada. Industry fatalities fell by nearly 50 percent last year and continued a downward trend since 2018. The accelerated reduction in worker fatalities was [first noted by SWANA](#) in June 2021. Please share this information within the Chapters and other with other industry stakeholders.

As in years past, we expect this story to be picked up by numerous trade publications over the next several days. We will discuss the report as part of the Safety Ambassador meeting taking place Monday, March 21 at 2 PM CT at [SOAR](#). There is a call-in option in the invite for those who will not be there in-person.

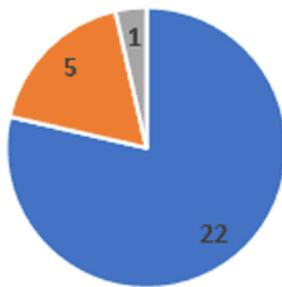


While the total number of worker fatalities was down considerably, the leading causes of fatal incidents remained consistent. As in previous years, the most common cause of collection worker fatalities was their own truck (e.g., either falling off it, being struck by it, or the truck rolling over). Being struck by a 3rd party vehicle remains the third leading cause of death for collection workers, as in 2020. For post-collection workers, being struck by waste trucks and yellow iron led to half of all fatalities.

For Canada specifically, SWANA did not record any worker fatalities in 2021, compared to three in 2020 and four in 2019.

Approximately 80 percent of the worker fatalities occurred in collection. Seven states represent 64 percent of all worker fatalities in the U.S. and Canada last year: Texas, New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

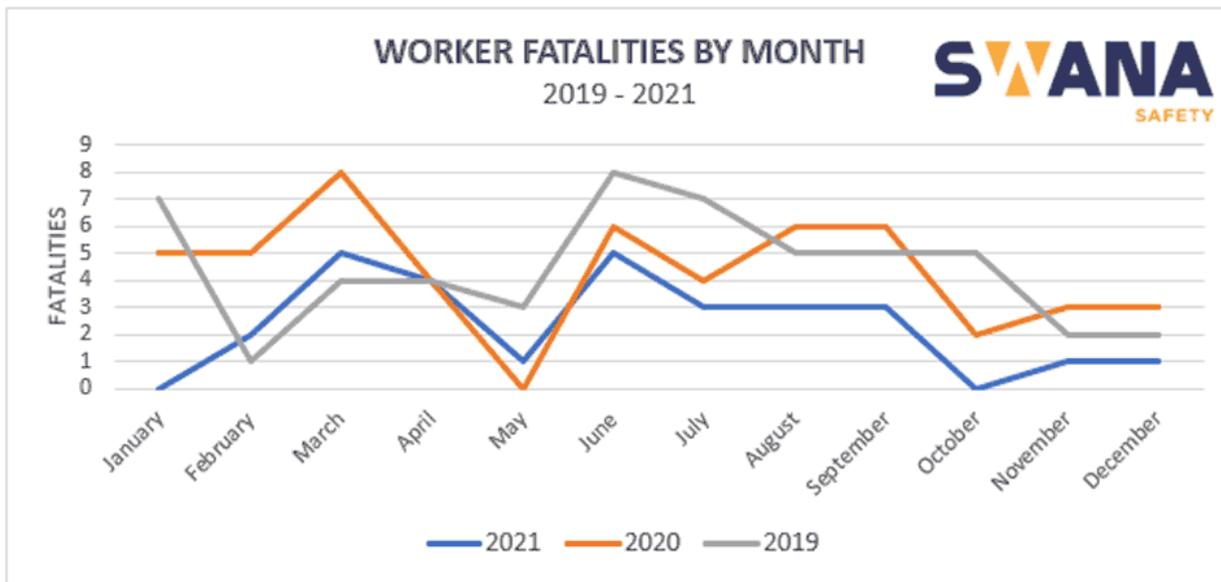
### 2021 FATALITY WORKSITES



■ Collection ■ Landfill ■ MRF

EVENT	FATALITIES
Struck by waste vehicle	7
Single vehicle crash	4
Struck by vehicle	3
Collision	2
Riding step	2
Medical event	2
Workplace violence	2
Other	6

Worker fatalities continue to follow similar trends over the past three years, with increases in March followed by a decrease into May. There is then a large jump in June and a gradual decline during the second half of the year. This information could help companies and local governments determine when safety training might be most effective.



In addition to worker fatalities, SWANA also tracks events in which a member of the public is killed in a solid waste related incident. Unfortunately, as has been widely reported, there was an increase in the overall number of vehicle-related fatalities in 2021, and the solid waste industry was not immune from this trend.



3rd PARTY	FATALITIES
Driver/Passenger	52
Pedestrian	20
Motorcyclist	8
Homeless Person	4
Other	3
Scooter Rider	2
Bicyclist	1

In nearly a third of these incidents, the driver of the other vehicle crossed the center line and struck a waste vehicle or ran into a waste vehicle while stopped. This suggests that distraction continues to be a contributor to a considerable number of 3rd party fatalities.

I look forward to working with you all to continue the reduction in worker fatalities and to reverse the trend in 3rd party fatalities through continued industry engagement, including more Hauler Safety Outreach events.