FACE IT: Report Slides
Sanitation Worker Struck by Backing Refuse Truck – North Carolina (FACE 2021-01)

2016 Crane Carrier model LETZ-30 truck chassis with a 2016 Heil model PT1000 refuse collection attachment. Photo courtesy of NC OSHA
SUMMARY

• On February 14, 2020, at 8:40 a.m., an employee of a city public works department was picking up garbage on a refuse truck on a residential route.

Incident scene. Photo courtesy of NC OSHA
SUMMARY

- The employer was a city public work division that managed six departments including sanitation.
- The three-person sanitation crew consisted of an operator and two sanitation workers who rode short distances on the back rider step of the truck as it moved through residential areas from one stop to the next.
- The crew was gathering trash cans on a dead-end residential street near a “T” intersection.
SUMMARY

• Startled by a pickup truck backing up from an adjacent residence, the sanitation worker jumped off the backing refuse truck, ran behind the refuse truck, and was fatally struck by the refuse truck.

• The refuse truck operator contacted 911 and the employer and emergency response personnel were dispatched.

• The worker was pronounced dead at the scene.
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

• Riding on an outside step of backing refuse equipment
• Lack of situational awareness of driver and sanitation workers
• Lack of written standard operating procedures for driving and riding positions on refuse trucks
• Lack of communication with ground workers
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Employers should select refuse equipment that reduces struck-by injury hazards for employees.

• Employers should install worker detection and operator notification devices on refuse equipment.

• Employer should develop policies and procedures and provide training on safe driving and riding positions on refuse trucks.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Waste and refuse management companies should follow and train employees on industry safety standards for operating refuse equipment in reverse.

• Employers should provide training on hazard recognition and mitigation strategies for equipment blind spots/zones.

• Manufacturers of refuse equipment should design riding steps and passenger compartments that ensure rider and passenger safety during all times of routine vehicle operation.
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Download the full report: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh FACE/pdfs/full202101.pdf
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