



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



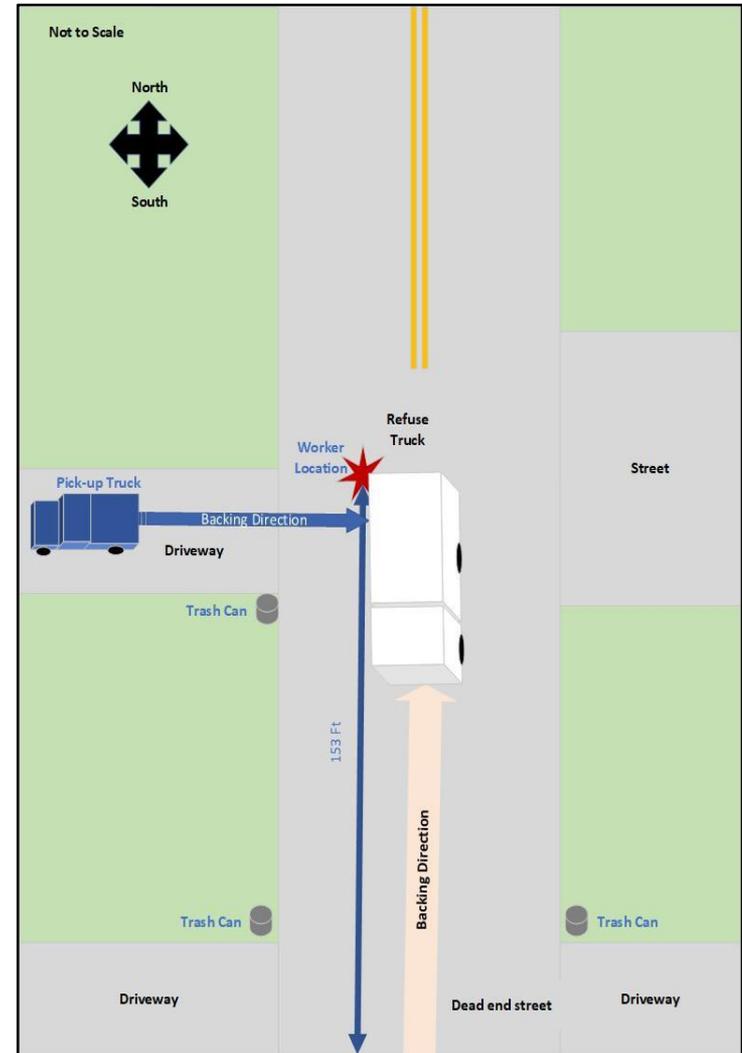
Passenger side rear label with locations on refuse truck. Photo courtesy of NC OSHA

- 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.



Incident 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.



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



INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

	DATE: February 14, 2020
	TIME: 8:40 a.m.
	VICTIM: 27-year-old sanitation worker
	INDUSTRY/NAICS CODE: Solid waste collection, 562111
	EMPLOYER: City public works division; 37 employees.
	SAFETY & TRAINING: Comprehensive safety and health program
	SCENE: Residential street
	LOCATION: North Carolina
	EVENT TYPE: Struck by



REPORT#: 2021-01 REPORT DATE: May 16, 2022

Sanitation Worker Struck by Backing Refuse Truck – North Carolina

SUMMARY

On February 14, 2020, at 8:40 a.m., an employee of a city public works department was engaged in manual garbage pickup on a refuse truck on a residential route. The three-person crew included an operator and two sanitation workers who rode on the outside step of the truck as it moved from one stop to the next. The sanitation worker riding on the outside step of the refuse truck was startled by a pick-up truck backing up from an adjacent residence towards him and the backing refuse truck. The sanitation worker jumped off the refuse truck, ran behind the refuse truck and was fatally struck by the refuse truck. [READ THE FULL REPORT \(p.3\)](#)

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Key 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

NIOSH investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- Select refuse equipment that reduce struck-by injury hazards for employees
- Install worker detection and operator notification devices on refuse equipment
- Develop policies and procedures and provide training on safe driving and riding positions on refuse trucks... [LEARN MORE \(p.10\)](#)

FACE IT: [2021-01 REPORT SLIDES](#)

www.cdc.gov/niosh/face



Download the full report: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/pdfs/full202101.pdf>



CONTACT US

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation
Surveillance and Field Investigations Branch

Division of Safety Research, NIOSH

1000 Frederick Lane, M/S 1808

Morgantown, West Virginia 26505-2888

FACE Web Site: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/>

Follow FACE on Twitter @NIOSHFACE