

## Waste Management—Struck By Injuries



150 waste management workers were seriously injured from being struck-by or against objects or vehicles between 2000 to 2004 resulting in over 12,500 days off work.



The injuries from these accidents were so serious, the workers had to take time off from work or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the average base rate of \$2.24 per hour per employee paid by employers in the waste management industry. A waste management company with five full-time employees with an average rate of injuries (claims) would pay approximately \$22,400 in premiums in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries, your “experience rating” could increase by 25% and your premiums would increase to \$2.91 per hour per employee. In a year, that would be an increase of \$6,700 to \$29,100 for five full time employees.

### Causes of struck-by injuries

Struck-by and struck-against injuries are caused by impact from or against a variety of items from the waste stream and from garbage cans. Workers are also being struck by moving equipment or vehicles.



Make sure the equipment driver sees you before walking behind the working equipment.

### Ways to prevent struck-by injuries

- Always wear personal protective equipment, including hi-visibility vest, when working around recycling, refuse collecting and other waste management processes.
- Stand to the side of refuse trucks during compaction operations.
- Pedestrians should always make eye contact with vehicle and machine operators before approaching and never assume that they know you are there.
- Create and use pedestrian clear zones when vehicles and machines that move are in operation.
- Vehicle operators should immediately shut down their vehicles when pedestrians in the work zone are not in view.