

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to The Hard Hat Training Series! Today's training will focus on the safe operation of waste collection vehicles, commonly referred to as garbage trucks.



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About Garbage Trucks

Ever since George Roby Dempster's creation of the Dempster-Dumpster in the 1930s, garbage trucks have collected solid wastes from homes, businesses, and worksites. Using special containers, they load refuse (or rubbish) into the truck body and transport it to a landfill or transfer station to be disposed of.



Garbage trucks are classified according to how refuse is loaded into the truck; in other words, through the front, rear, or side.





Front loader trucks use a pair of lifting forks attached to hydraulic-powered arms to raise dumpsters overhead and empty them into the hopper on top of the truck. The hopper is the opening where refuse is first loaded to be compacted and forced further into the truck body.



Image from Joint Base Langley-Eustis

A rear loader truck has a hopper at the back of the truck body, allowing garbage collectors to manually empty trash into the vehicle. Some rear loaders have different attachments that help unload larger, heavier containers.





Side loaders use a hydraulic arm and claw to lift containers overhead and empty them into the hopper. The arm may be fully or partially automated. Some side loaders come with different types of lifting arms for handling heavier containers.



At this time, we would like to mention pneumatic collection trucks, grapple trucks, and roll-off trucks. Though these automobiles are also used to gather garbage, their collection methods differ greatly from those of standard garbage trucks. Operating these trucks requires additional training not provided in this presentation.



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All garbage trucks are large, powerful machines. Some front loaders lift containers as heavy as four tons and carry about 18 tons of refuse per load. Some side loaders can collect garbage from nearly 1,500 homes in a single day. However, as useful as these trucks are, they are dangerous if not handled safely.



Case Study

In 2008, two waste collectors were loading recyclables into a side-loader garbage truck. The vehicle had compactors on either side of the machine and would usually sound an alarm when one was being operated. As one of the collectors was reaching into a compactor to clean it out, either he or his coworker engaged it by accident. He was crushed to death.

Did you know?

Of the +350 work accidents from 2002 – 2017 involving garbage trucks, 79% were fatal.

- Being struck by or run over by a garbage truck was the highest cause of death, causing 34% of the fatalities.
- Second: traffic-related accidents, including collisions and struck by passing vehicles, causing 20%.
- The third highest: being crushed by the compactor, containers, or other moving parts, causing 16%.
- The fourth highest: falls cause 14 % of deaths.



The subsequent OSHA accident investigation listed 12 different violations:

- Four citations for not training or retraining employees observed improperly operating equipment
- Three citations for lacking proper maintenance procedures and necessary safety equipment
- Three citations for lapsed employee evaluations and workplace safety inspections
- Two citations for improper accident documentation

Had the employees involved been trained properly on safe operating procedures, this tragedy could easily have been avoided. Instead, a worker needlessly lost his life, and the company had to pay \$9,900 in initial fines.

Did you know?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, refuse collectors have the fifth highest fatal work injury rate, with approximately 39 fatal work injuries for every 100,000 full-time workers.

In this training, we will look at the anatomy and functions of garbage trucks in general, focusing on components examined during pre-shift inspections. We will also cover the specific equipment found on front, rear, and side loaders.



We will discuss operation and transport stability, addressing why you should know your truck's capabilities and work within those limits.



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We will cover the importance of knowing your machine, knowing your worksite, understanding your machine, and other requirements for safe operations.



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Finally, we will discuss the more common hazards involving garbage trucks, as well as how to recognize, avoid, or minimize them. We will also present a few case studies to help illustrate these points.





By the time you complete this training and the written and practical exams, you will be more familiar with the anatomy and equipment of garbage trucks, better prepared to safely operate your machine, and able to recognize and avoid common hazards associated with its use.





OSHA STANDARDS

- OSH Act of 1970 Sec. 5. (a)(1): "Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards [...]."
- OSHA 1910.178 *Powered Industrial Trucks*
- OSHA 1910.212 *General Requirements for All Machines*
- ANSI Z245.1-2017 *Mobile Wastes and Recyclable Materials Collection, Transportation, and Compaction Equipment*
- (DOT) CFR 383.91- Operators of vehicles over 26,000 LBS must possess a CDL.
 - CFR 396.11- CDL operators must conduct a pre-shift inspection
 - CFR 395.8 - CDL operators must keep a log book
 - CFR 390.21- CMVs must have an official DOT number
 - etc.

While there aren't any OSHA regulations specific to garbage trucks, the general guidelines listed above may be applied. ANSI Z245.1 applies to garbage truck operators, so the most up-to-date standards must be followed. You also need to know and follow all local laws and regulations that apply to you.



Necessity for Training and Retraining

Anyone who operates equipment must receive training prior to maneuvering the machine on their own. As noted below, requirements for refresher training are also very specific.

Did you know?

Regulations specify that an operator **must** take a refresher course if any of the following apply:

- The operator is observed operating the equipment in an **unsafe** manner (e.g., no seatbelt, reckless driving, etc.)
- The operator is involved in an **accident** **or** a **near miss**
- The operator received a **poor evaluation** for performance
- The operator is required to **use a different type of machine** **or** **attachment**
- Workplace conditions have changed

Additionally, regulations state that it is the employer who is responsible for determining the frequency of refresher training.



OSHA's standards also state that for some machines, refresher training must take place every 3 years. Even for machines that aren't specified, it is best practice to do refresher training at least every 3 years. A so-called "free pass" can't just be awarded based on experience, age, or time on the job. The extent of the evaluation is to be determined by the employer, but should include a written and practical examination that proves continued competency.

The OSHA logo, featuring a blue circular icon with a white 'O' and the letters 'SHA' in a large, black, serif font, followed by a registered trademark symbol (®).

Training Documentation

Initial training, as well as any evaluations or refresher courses must be documented with the name of the person or persons who taught the class or conducted the evaluation. Although OSHA doesn't require wallet cards as proof of training, many companies and worksites do require onsite proof that you have been trained. At the very least, in the case of an investigation, OSHA will want to see proof of proper and consistent training (in the way of training outlines, class lists, training goals, tests, certificates, etc.)

Garbage truck operators share in the responsibility to ensure that they and their coworkers have:

- Received training by qualified personnel
- Read and understood the manufacturer's operating instructions and safety rules as found in the operator's manual.
- Read and understood all decals, warning labels, and capacity plates on the machine and attachments
- Performed a thorough pre-shift inspection each day before operating the machine



Anatomy & Components

SAMPLE



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