November 2020

# SLOW DOWN TO GET AROUND

Help keep refuse and recycling collection workers safe on our streets

Distracted driving by motorists puts waste and recycling collectors at risk every day. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has named the refuse and recycling collector as the fifth most dangerous occupation. Of all the fatalities of these hardworking men and women, two-thirds (67 percent) were the result of transportation incidents. Many of these incidents are caused by inattentive or distracted driving by motorists who failed to yield to refuse and recycling collection vehicles. Most of the time, the danger is no different than that experienced by police officers and wrecker drivers who are stopped at the side of the road.

A total of 31 states around the country have "Move Over" laws that mention waste collection vehicles. The statutes vary from state to state, but the laws generally require drivers to slow down and yield to collection vehicles, especially when the operator is emptying a cart or walking back to the truck. Move Over laws are saving lives by requiring drivers to exercise caution and avoid distractions when they are approaching a collection truck.

## WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES

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| SLOW DOWN | when approaching a garbage truck making its rounds. Stop if necessary to allow workers to do their jobs. |
| LOOK FOR WORKERS | before attempting to pass the truck. |
| CHECK FOR TRAFFIC | approaching from the opposite direction before proceeding around the truck. |
| AVOID DISTRACTIONS | like texting, talking on the cell phone, changing the radio station, or programming a GPS, while driving near a waste collection truck. |

National Waste & Recycling Association℠
Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

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www.wasterecycling.org