

SAFETY FIRST

FIRES

September is [National Preparedness Month](#), a time to make sure solid waste workers are ready for emergencies that can happen at any time. Fires cause massive damage and require a lot of recovery and clean-up by solid waste workers. These tips will help keep workers safe after fires occur.

- Do not work around any fire-damaged structures until after they are inspected.
- Review your procedures for handling fires in collection vehicles or at your facility.
- If smoky, wear masks as necessary and be extra cautious if you have an existing condition, like asthma or heart disease.
- Employers and workers should be aware of increased risk for heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and fainting.
- Stress, long hours, and fatigue may increase the risk of injury and illness. Check in with yourself and others to make sure you're still fit to work.



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