

# SAFETY FIRST

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## How to Handle a Truck Fire

**Truck fires are increasingly common** on the road and can occur for a variety of reasons, including electrical fires, hot loads in collection vehicles, hydraulic fluid leaks, and issues in the engine compartment. Fires pose serious threats to solid waste and resource management employees, as well as bystanders, so take precautions to prevent the occurrence of fires. Check your vehicle before, during, and after driving for potential leaks, odd odors, hot spots, and damage.

**The rise of improper disposal** of lithium-ion batteries has increased the risk of fires in waste and recycling loads, so ensure you are taking extra precautions for vehicles that are transporting waste, recycling, and composting materials. Fires may evolve rapidly so have an action plan in place before it happens.

**If a fire has started**, safely park the vehicle as far from traffic and pedestrians as possible. Use a fire extinguisher and call emergency services.

Follow these tips to **prevent a truck fire**:

- Carefully follow your organization's pre-trip and post-trip safety checks.
- Avoid leaving waste materials loaded in trucks overnight.
- While driving, be alert for odd odors, hot spots on tires, and leaks.



Know the four steps to fire extinguisher use: **Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep (PASS)**. Ensure your fire extinguisher is up to code and accessible. Consider carrying a fire extinguisher on the vehicle if appropriate.

Source: [NSW EPA](#), [MEL Safety Institute](#), [PENSKE](#)

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