

Distracted Driving is a Killer

Transportation incidents accounted for **37.7%** of all occupational fatalities in 2022, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Distracted driving leads to thousands of fatalities each year, plus numerous injuries and property damage incidences. Waste and recycling workers spend a lot of time behind the wheel and should take steps to ensure safe and focused driving.

- 1 Be aware of inclement weather and traffic conditions.** Review your route, traffic, and weather conditions before getting on the road so you can be prepared. Communicate with your team if you have concerns about completing a route safely due to weather or other impacts.
- 2 Avoid communication overload.** Communication is essential for efficient operations, but messages, calls, and notifications can be overwhelming. Restrict contact while behind the wheel.
- 3 Address personal matters off the road.** Stress, anxiety, personal problems, and health issues can impair your ability to concentrate and make decisions. Pull over and take care of urgent matters while safely parked.
- 4 Follow policies and procedures.** There should be zero tolerance for deliberate risky behavior such as talking on a handheld device or texting while driving. Commit to staying focused.
- 5 Make it personal.** Distracted driving can lead to catastrophes. Imagine receiving that heart-wrenching call informing you that a loved one has been involved in a car crash due to distracted driving. Seconds spent glancing at a text message or adjusting the GPS can be life-altering.

Source: Safety Expert Brian Fielkow

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