



**Health and Safety
in
Local Authority
Waste and Recycling Services**

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An update from HSE on health and safety in the waste and recycling sector



- Accidents and prosecutions- the latest picture
- Initiatives being undertaken by the HSE- what you need to know
- The WISH blueprint and how to get involved

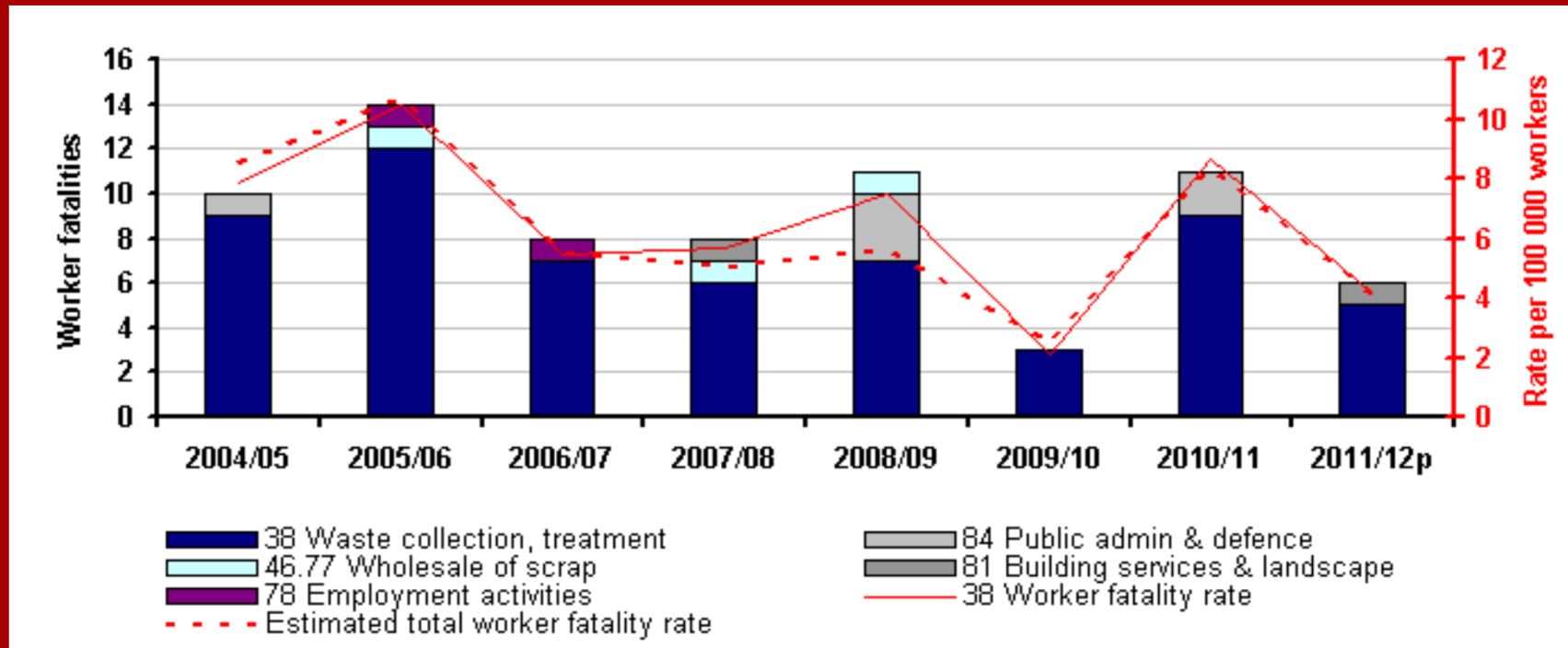
Accidents



Good news!

The rate of RIDDOR 'all injuries' over the last eight years has fallen about 20% and injury numbers have been falling for the last four years or so

Worker fatalities and rates in waste and recycling



2 x that of construction

9 x "all industries" rate

Only agriculture is worse at 10x "all industries" rate

Hence, a priority industry for HSE

Fatal accidents 2013



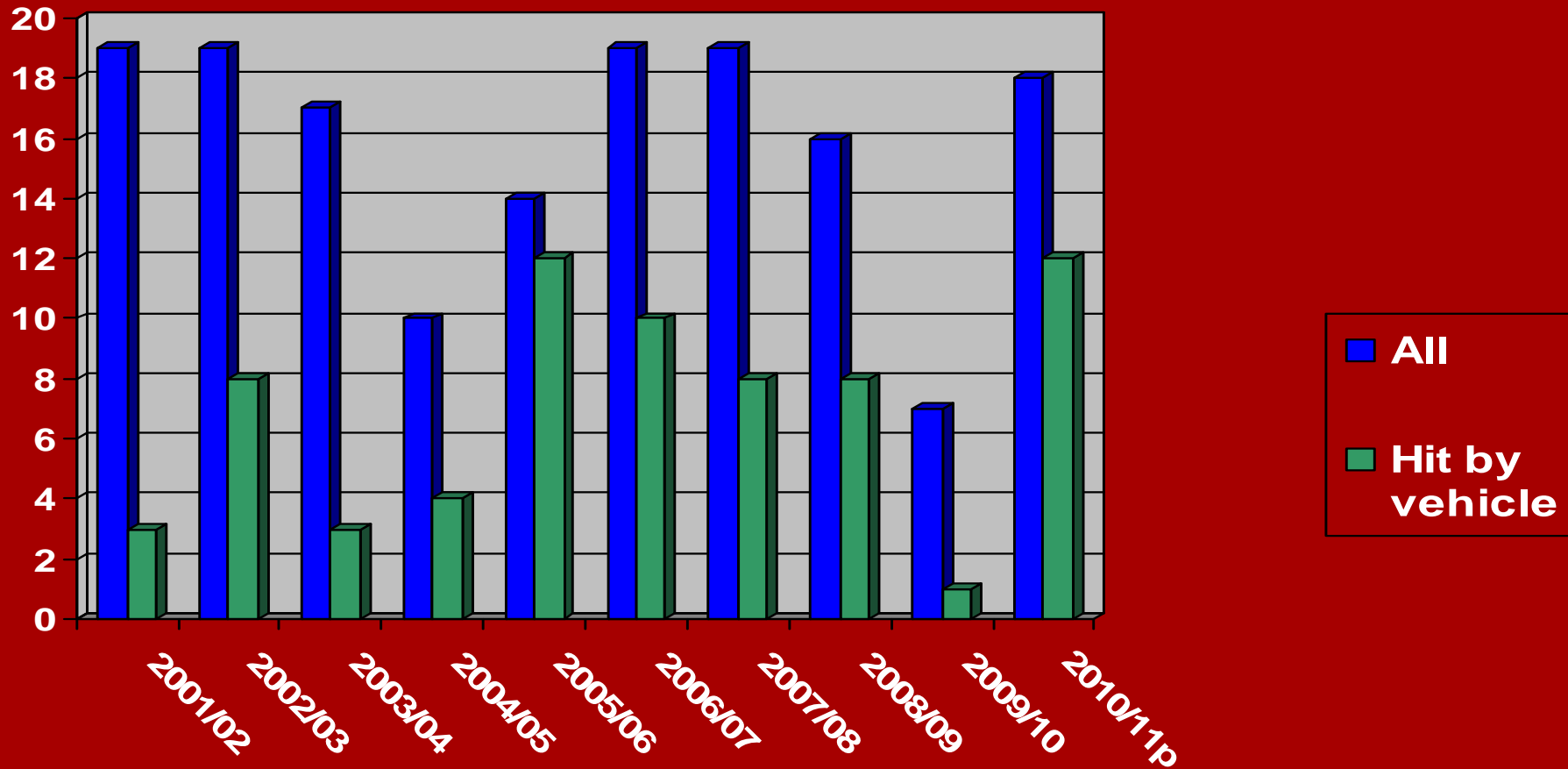
1. Male, 42, employee charging a battery to a truck without the handbrake in place and the vehicle in neutral. Vehicle was on a slight incline and rolled forward crushing the deceased against an adjacent truck.
2. Employee had picked up one end of skip with grab loader. He went underneath the skip to sweep up and was crushed when the skip fell on him
3. Council commercial waste vehicle was reversing at road junction when it struck a member of the public who was crossing behind the vehicle.
4. Employee run over and killed by a wheeled loading shovel at a waste transfer site

Fatal Accidents

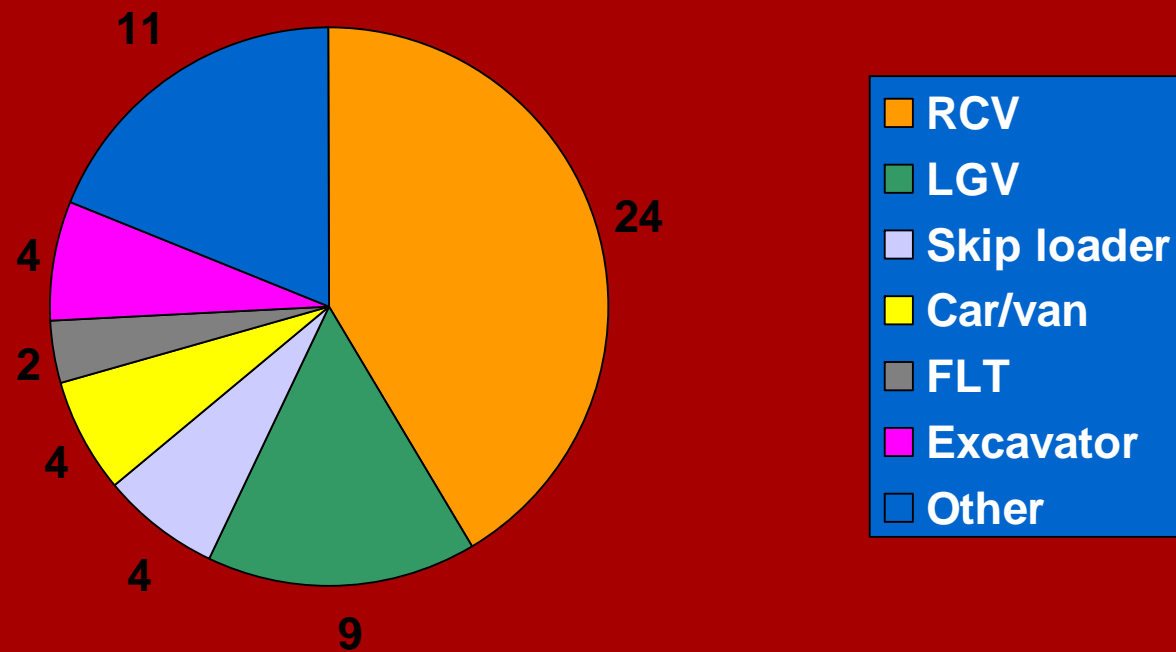


6. Employee died after he was trapped in waste compactor/baling machine at recycling plant
7. MOP, homeless man crushed to death by refuse collection vehicle compactor mechanism after falling asleep in commercial waste container.
8. Employee driving lift truck travelling with 2 x bales of cardboard held by clamp approximately 2.5m above ground. FLT overturned. Driver not wearing seat belt and was crushed between safety cage and ground.

Waste and recycling fatalities



Fatal accidents 2001-11 by vehicle type



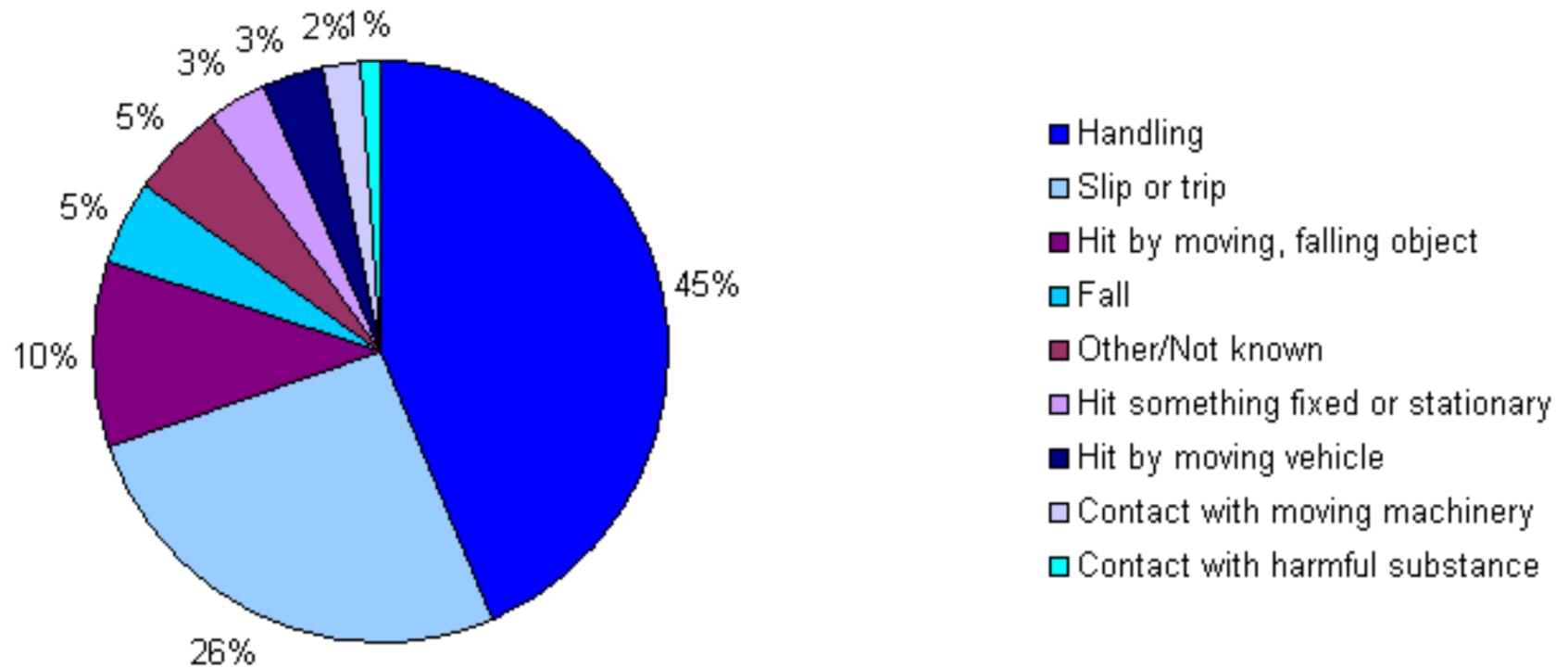
Major injuries to employees in waste and recycling



- 80% of all accidents - collection and sorting activities
- Major injury causes
 - Slips, trips 35%
 - Hit by moving/falling object 14%
 - Handling = MSDs, sprains, lacerations 13%
 - Falls 11%
 - Hit by moving vehicle 7%
 - Machinery 6%



Over 3 day injuries to employees in waste and recycling sector



ILL HEALTH



- 5% of workers in waste and recycling suffer from a self-reported illness caused or made worse by their current or most recent job
- absence rates e.g. 12.8 days c. 9.6 days public sector
- new and emerging processes – bioaerosols and composting, exposure to lead, mercury etc. during WEEE recycling etc.

Prosecutions



- Driver of a national waste contracting company whilst reversing into a factory to make a delivery, hit and killed an employee who was wearing headphones. A reversing assistant was not used and the reversing alarm on the vehicle was not working.
- £20,000 fine. 25 year-old worker had his arm severed when he tried to clear a blockage on a conveyor forming part of a metal sorting line
- £370,000 fine after a 25 year old worker was struck by the bucket of a wheeled loading shovel. He sustained fatal injuries after being pushed and pinned against a steel column by the large, heavy vehicle.

Prosecutions



- Company ordered to pay almost £130,000 in fines and costs after a worker suffered serious injuries when he was crushed between two trucks at a recycling plant.
- A recycling firm fined and its director given a suspended jail sentence for endangering workers after allowing them to operate fork lift trucks without proper training and then ignoring a notice requiring urgent action to address the safety failing.

HSE's programme of work with industry



Numerous work streams in W&R programme,
but key elements at this time are:

- Waste management and recycling inspection initiative with Local Authorities
- Lead Inspector initiative with national waste management companies
- Inspection of “hot spots”

Waste management and recycling inspection initiative with Local Authorities



3 year initiative to evaluate and assess the role of local authorities (LAs) when:

- procuring and managing municipal waste and recycling contracts; and/or
- delivering and managing in-house waste and recycling services.

Key Messages



Contracts

- Remember H&S when placing contracts (W&R and others)
- Avoid being overly-prescriptive in the early stages of contract specification
- Ensure contract monitoring procedures are in place – and happen!
- Review contract performance regularly-ensure flexibility over life of the contract



National Lead Inspector (NLI) Initiative

Programme of work started in 2009/10 initially targeted at nine companies, now 15

- Central interventions undertaken to assess safety management systems
- Head office visits
- Site visits
- Assess progress with Action Plans



Hotspot Inspections

Targeted inspection of:

75 Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs - also known as Material Reclamation Facilities or Material Recycling Facilities).



The way forward

What is the waste and recycling industry doing to reduce accidents and ill health?

- Delivering the Solution Together: Industry Summit Event February 2013
- Blueprint to set out health and safety issues and solutions for waste industry



Blueprint - five strategic themes

- 1. Providing strong leadership,**
- 2. Involving the workforce,**
- 3. Building competence,**
- 4. Creating healthier and safer workplaces, and**
- 5. Providing support for small and medium sized employers.**

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/wish-blueprint-progress-update.pdf>

Summary



- Continued expansion,
- Poor health and safety performance compared to other industries,
- High rates of fatalities,
- Potential significant health issues,
- Direct and unavoidable public interface especially in collection activities

PRIORITY INDUSTRY FOR HSE

INDUSTRY COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT



Thanks for listening

Any questions?