

# F or Y our D riving



## Striking Overhead Objects

Overhead object crashes usually occur when roll-off truck operators leave their hoists raised. While some of the accidents are relatively minor (striking wires, awnings, trees, etc.), incidents in which vehicles strike bridges or overpasses can be disastrous. Trucks have been totaled, accidents have resulted in extensive property damage, and drivers have died in crashes because roll-off vehicles struck overhead objects with their hoists.

Most roll-off trucks have warning lights and buzzers to remind drivers that their hoists are in the up position. However, roll-off trucks equipped with warning lights or buzzers still are regularly involved in overhead object accidents. Although the driver is ultimately responsible for lowering the hoist, there are other precautions companies can take to prevent overhead object accidents:

- ✓ Ensure all vehicles have been equipped with warning lights and buzzers in the cab, reminding the driver of the raised hoist.
- ✓ Place a sticker on the dashboard or driver's door, reminding the driver to lower the hoist.
- ✓ Design routes and plan collection stops to minimize exposure to overhead object hazards.
- ✓ Develop a driver safety observation program to monitor driver behavior.
- ✓ Routinely conduct check rides with employees.
- ✓ Frequently remind drivers to be aware of clearances and overhead hazards.
- ✓ Conduct safety meetings with current drivers and training sessions with new hires to make sure they are familiar with clearances and overhead hazards.
- ✓ Make safety performance and compliance with safety policies part of the driver's performance review.
- ✓ Make safety performance and compliance with safety policies part of the manager's performance review.

*Please continue to work and drive safely!*

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