

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

The Importance of Being Safe Around Garbage Trucks

Busy streets, frequent stops & starts, and road obstructions can make operating a garbage truck challenging under the best of circumstances. As motorists and pedestrians, we need to take the time to help prevent accidents by remembering to use simple safety measures when approaching garbage trucks.



- **KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE** – 30 feet is the recommended safe distance between you and a garbage collection truck in operation. Remember, there's a good chance that if you cannot see the driver's eyes, the driver likely cannot see you.
- **STAYING ALERT** – Drivers, walkers, runners, cyclists, skaters, scooter and moped operators all need to stay alert when approaching garbage trucks. Listen for backup alarms and look for flashing lights. Don't get distracted using your mobile phone or listening on your ear pods.
- **SLOWING DOWN** – Garbage trucks make frequent and unexpected stops, and because of their weight and size, it generally takes at least twice as long for a truck to stop as a passenger car. So don't try and gauge your reaction time compared to a garbage truck.
- **BEING PATIENT** – Don't attempt to pass a garbage truck unless the driver sees you and motions for you to pass.

Refuse workers are essential to our community, and you can help garbage truck drivers complete their work safely.

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