

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWANA Announces Winners of 2019 Safety Awards

Safety Award Winners Recognized at WASTECON® 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona

Silver Spring, MD – The [Solid Waste Association of North America](#) (SWANA) is excited to announce the 2019 SWANA Safety Award recipients chosen by the SWANA Safety Committee. These awards recognize those who have demonstrated a profound commitment to improving employee safety through communication, best practices, training, and policies. Two organizations are honored this year with the Biggest Safety Improvement Award and the Best Safety Innovation Award.

2019 Safety Award Winners

The [Best Safety Innovation Award](#) goes to the City of San Antonio, Solid Waste Management Department for fully implementing a Safety Management System (SMS) that challenged convention, created synergies, and engaged employees at all levels and functions. These efforts reduced accidents by 47 percent and injuries by 50 percent, with a lost work day rate reduction of 28 percent.

“The men and women of the City of San Antonio’s Solid Waste Management Department serve more than 358,000 households weekly and are routinely faced with high risk conditions,” says Walter Barrett, Solid Waste Manager at the City of San Antonio, Solid Waste Management Department. “Through the implementation of a Safety Management System, the department strives to mitigate and eliminate these risks and provide a safer work environment that ensures our employees go home to their families in the same condition as when they arrived at work. Their commitment to safety guided us on the journey to obtaining an ISO 45001 Safety Certification and making San Antonio the first municipality in the world to achieve this accomplishment. Our thanks to SWANA for its role in this challenge and to our entire team whose dedication and innovation propels the continual improvement in achieving a sustained reduction in accidents and injuries.”

The [Biggest Safety Improvement Award](#) goes to Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) for continued success in increasing transparency and two-way communication among employees and management, reducing incidents by over 50 percent from the previous year. LRS is headquartered in Morton Grove, Illinois and serves the Chicagoland area with more than 720 full time employees.

“Lakeshore is proud to be recognized by SWANA for our continued dedication to the Live Safety philosophy,” says John Sliwicki, Vice President of Risk Management at Lakeshore Recycling Systems and SWANA Illinois Chapter Safety Ambassador. “This belief is at the heart of our core values and guides our decision making at every level. Our efforts and commitment have finally started to be demonstrated in the overall reduction of incidents and claim spend. These metrics provide further support that our culture is blossoming, and we are headed in the right direction.”

SWANA is also recognizing another organization for their innovation and improvement by awarding an Honorable Mention to City of Casper Regional Landfill in Casper, Wyoming for its merit in both categories.

The winners of the SWANA Safety Awards will be recognized at [WASTECON®](#) in Phoenix, Arizona.

SWANA would like to thank [Autocar](#), [New Way](#), [Otto](#) and [PRECO](#) for sponsoring this year's SWANA Safety Awards.

For more information on SWANA's safety programs, visit swana.org/safety.

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About SWANA:

The **Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)** is an organization of more than 10,000 public and private sector professionals committed to advancing from solid waste management to resource management through their shared emphasis on education, advocacy, and research. For more than 50 years, SWANA has been the leading association in the solid waste management field. SWANA serves industry professionals through technical conferences, certifications, publications, and a large offering of technical training courses. For more information, visit swana.org.