

# Occupational Health and Safety in Waste Management and Remediation Services in Ontario

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# Disclaimer

This presentation has been prepared to assist workplace parties in understanding the overall OHS indicators and improvement opportunities in the sector. This presentation does not constitute legal advice. To determine your rights and duties under OHSA, please contact your legal counsel or refer to the legislation.

## Key Statistics: 2018-2021

Based on reported injuries to the MLTSD from 2018 to 2021 and WSIB data, some of the key OHS indicators in the “Waste Management and Remediation Services” sector are:

- 10 fatalities occurred in this sector;
- 97 critical injuries reported to the ministry;
- In 2020, based on the WSIB data, 275 injuries happened in this sector.

# Fatalities in the Waste Management Sector: 2018-2021



**10** fatalities from 2018 to 2021 happened in the waste management sector

## Top Occupations



**Truck drivers** and **Labourer material handling** experienced the highest number of fatalities in this sector.

## Cause of Fatalities



**Crushed by** and **Motor Vehicle Accident** were the highest causes of fatalities in the waste management sector.

**Source:** MLTSD Power BI Dashboard - OHS Dashboard, traumatic fatalities from 2018 to 2021

# Critical Injuries in the Waste Management Sector: 2018-2021

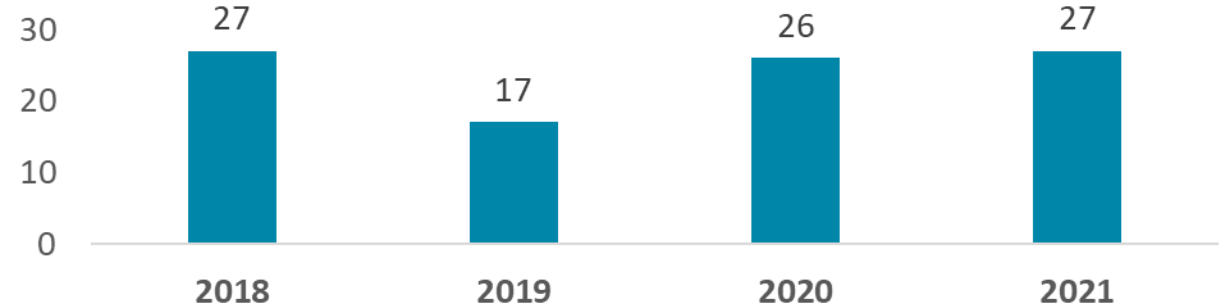


**97** critical injuries from 2018 to 2021 happened in the waste management sector

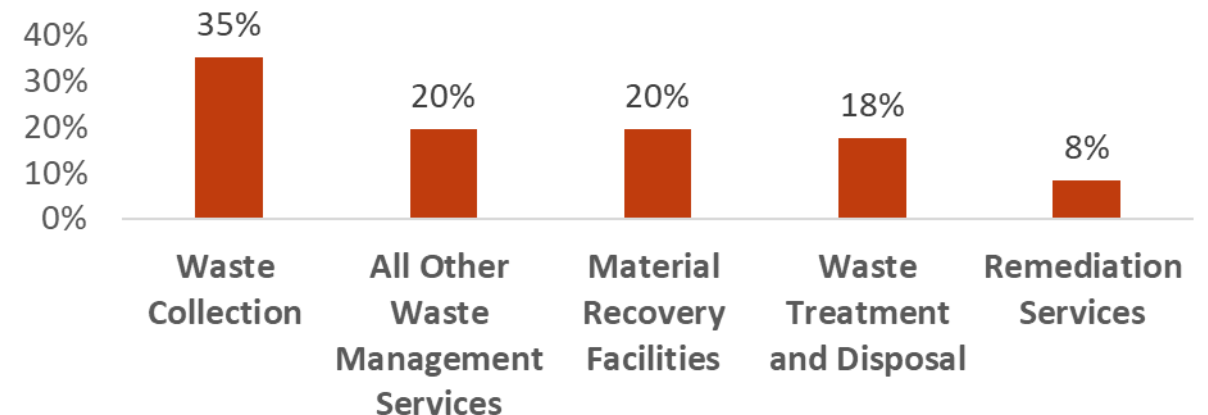
## Based on the reported critical injuries:

- In this period, every year on average 24 critical injuries occurred in the sector.
- The highest number of critical injuries was in the waste collection sub-sector.
- 62% of critical injuries happened in small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

Trend of Critical Injuries in the Waste Management Sector: 2018-2021



Percentage of Critical Injuries in Waste Management by Sub-sector: 2018-2021



Source: MLTSD Power BI Dashboard - OHS Dashboard, ICE database, critical injuries from 2018 to 2021.

# Allowed Lost Time Injuries in the Waste Management Sector in 2020



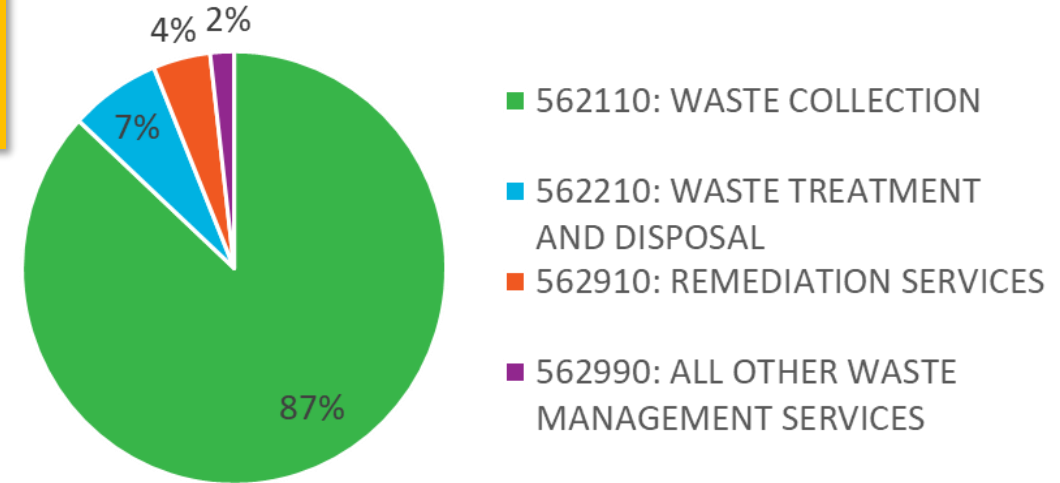
Based on WSIB data in 2020, **275** lost-time injuries happened in the waste management sector



## Top Sub-sectors

- 87% of injuries were in waste collection sub-sector
- 7% of injuries occurred in the waste treatment and disposal sector

Allowed Lost Time Injuries by Sub-sector: 2020



## Top Causes of Injury

- Struck by object (20%)
- Overexertion (19%)
- Bodily reaction (18%)
- Fall on same level (10%)
- Fall to lower level (6%)



## Top Occupations

- Truck drivers (48%)
- Public works maintenance equipment operators (10%)
- Material handlers (9%)

**Source:** WSIB data, allowed lost time injuries in 2020.

**Note:** For ALTIs, the most recent available data that is 2020 data has provided.



# What areas are in need of focused improvement?

## Based on OHS Data

- **Top areas:** Focus on the areas with the greatest needs (based on highest number or risk of fatalities and injuries)
  - Top subsectors (i.e. Waste Collection, Waste Treatment and Disposal)  
Top Causes (i.e. based ALTI: Struck by Object, Overexertion; based on fatalities: Crushed by and Motor Vehicle Accident )
  - Top Occupation (i.e. Truck Driver, Material Handler)
- **Small businesses:** Support small businesses to explore and mitigate their workplace hazards and risks
  - From 2018-2021, 62% of critical injuries happened in small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

**Source:** MLTSD Power BI Dashboard - OHS Dashboard, ICE database, critical injuries from 2018 to 2021.

# What areas are in need of focused improvement?

## Based on Inspection Reports

### Waste transfer stations:

Based on the ministry inspections and the enforcement reports in the sector:

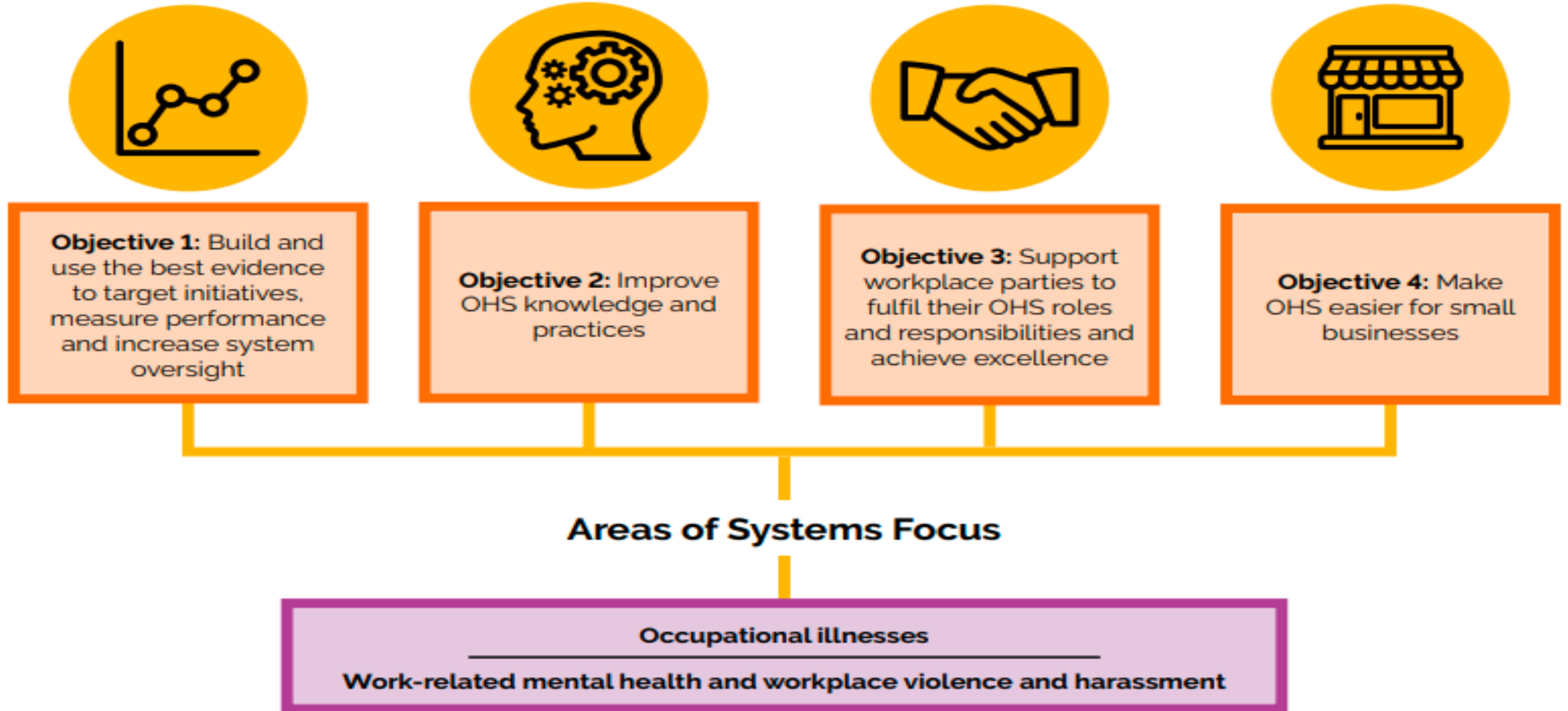
- There is a need to focus on reducing incidents resulting from the interaction of pedestrians and vehicles. Limiting pedestrian access to areas where vehicles are in operation would be an example of a control measure. Barriers could divide pedestrian and vehicular areas.
- Look at lighting and the contrast between worker's PPE and their background to ensure a driver easily can see workers.



## Potential Systematic Approaches to mitigate risks and hazards

- **RA and RCA:** Apply risk assessment and root cause analysis in the sector and workplaces to explore and target the main risk factors and causes
- **OHS Management Systems:** Implement the occupational health and safety management system in the workplaces
- **Near misses' data:** Collect and analyze near misses' data in the sector

# OHS Strategy Objectives



## Potential ways the sector can use the gathered information to better inform the industry



The technical associations can work with the industry to create **interactive media** to enhance communication with the sector and hear workplace's voices.



The technical associations can **inform** the industry about:

- Areas with the greatest needs;
- Top hazards and risks;
- Results of the risk assessment and root cause analysis;
- Best practices and controlled methods.



The technical associations can work with the industry to **mobilize knowledge** in collaboration with workplaces about:

- Workplace's accidents and near misses' data;
- Best practices and new controlled methods.



The technical associations and training providers can apply the OHS information for developing **tailored trainings** and OHS initiatives in the sector.

## Tips from the Ministry/Resources/Best practices



- In 2019 the Ministry, in collaboration with stakeholders, updated the *Mobile Compacting Equipment Safety Guideline*.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/mobile-compacting-equipment-safety-guideline>

- You can learn about *visibility hazards* which may lead to workers being struck by vehicles at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ergonomics-workplace#section-2>

- You can learn about *transportation equipment and vehicle traffic* (collisions or being struck by a vehicle) at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/hazards-industrial-sector#section-24>



## Contact Information:

If you have any question about enforcement and OHS aspects in the sector, please contact:

**Martin, Juanita (MLTSD)**

**Fair, Safe & Healthy Workplaces**

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If you have any question about the provided data and information, please contact:

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Questions about health and safety? Contact the MLTSD at:

**1-877-202-0008**