SWA 22-002 Temporary Suspension of Yard Waste Collection Reinstated

This Solid Waste Advisory (SWA) supersedes notification sent to industry on March 1, 2022, rescinding SWA 21-004 (the allowance to mix collections of yard waste and refuse, if required due to labor shortages).

All licensed solid waste service providers are hereby notified that enforcement of separate collection of yard waste on a weekly basis will continue to be temporarily suspended through April 16, 2022.

1. Collectors may, if impacted by labor shortages, collect yard waste with refuse (i.e. mixed collections) without enforcement consequences.
2. Yard waste must be collected weekly, whether it is collected separately or mixed with refuse.
3. Yard waste should be collected separately whenever possible.
4. Recyclables must continue to be collected separately every week.
5. All other properly set-out material must be removed from the curb on a weekly basis.

Separate collection of source-separated yard waste will be reinstated on Monday, April 18, 2022.

Questions should be directed to Charles Forbes at charles.forbes@fairfaxcounty.gov

Thanks to Waste Collectors for Submitting Recycling Reports!

The Solid Waste Management Program would like to thank all waste collectors for turning in their Recycling Reporting Forms—most of you ahead of the March 1 deadline.

Fairfax County is required by law to report to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) the county’s recycling rate each year. The reports received from the waste collectors are vital to ensuring that the SWMP accurately captures all recycling taking place in the county. Thank you for assisting us in completing this important reporting requirement!
April is - Distracted Driving Awareness Month!

Every month would be Distracted Driving Awareness Month. We should always be reminding our families and friends and co-workers and other drivers that distracted driving is dangerous—no—wreckless. Wreckless because it is a choice drivers make every time they get behind the wheel. Wreckless because the behavior kills eight people and injures hundreds more in the U.S. each day.

That said, April has been designated Distracted Driving Awareness Month and it presents us all an opportunity to draw more attention to it—to talk about it in our safety meetings and our tailgate talks and at our dinner tables; to put up posters in the office to raise awareness; to teach our teenagers; to take and to get others to take the pledge to drive distraction-free; to remind one another that, as dangerous as our roads are, our eyes and our minds must always be focused on driving—because lives depend on it.

The National Safety Council has online resources that anyone can use—including fact sheets, a safe driving policy template, posters, videos, infographics, and a social media kit at:
Please also consider personally committing to distraction-free driving by taking the National Safety Council Just Drive Pledge today!
https://www.nsc.org/faforms/ddam-pledge

Remember that that text message, that email, that call, that social media post, and even that donut or sandwich can wait until you are somewhere safe. Do it for yourself and do it for everyone else too!

Children and Pedestrians Out and About in Warm Weather

With the warmer weather, more children are out on the streets playing or boarding school buses. More pedestrians are also out and about enjoying the springtime - biking or walking for exercise. It’s important for drivers to be aware of the risk of accidents involving pedestrians during this time.

In 2020 it’s estimated that 6,721 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes according to the Governor’s Highway Safety Association. That is a 4.8% increase from the year before. On average one pedestrian was killed every 84 minutes in a traffic crash. Seventeen percent of children fourteen and younger killed in traffic accidents were pedestrians. Be careful out there!

Situational Awareness for Collection Workers

Workers collecting on their routes are aware of the fact that many people are not allowing enough space for collection crews to do their work safely.

Collection crews need to ensure that they are aware of their surroundings at all times, looking around and taking in the whole scene.

• Don’t exceed performance capabilities and go too fast where you’re not looking for oncoming vehicles
• Never cross double yellow to collect
• Never assume that driver sees you