

# ESA Launch Introduction

This month's ESA Situational Awareness theme is people in bins. The accompanying video is short and impactful, designed to remind our people to think twice before moving waste containers.

People taking shelter or sleeping in or around waste containers is a serious issue for our industry.

Several fatalities have occurred in recent years across our sector, with significant near misses also widely recorded. Although there have been fatalities, we also recognise that there have been significant records of near miss events, whereby fortunately teams across the sector have managed to identify rough sleepers by inspecting the waste containers and looking for signs of vulnerable people in or around them.

Rough sleepers are typically discovered inside closed containers during cold weather in secluded urban areas; however, people are increasingly being found sheltering in bins within towns and villages.



Unfortunately, some of the most vulnerable people in our society find themselves in this sad and difficult situation, facing not just homelessness but also mental and physical health issues, drug or alcohol problems, and potentially long histories of neglect and abuse. They could be trying to find an escape and a place to sleep in at night or rest in during the day, with the containers providing a form of warmth and shelter. No matter what part of the UK it's in, every waste container could have a rough sleeper inside, so we must remain situationally aware to prevent any harm whatsoever during our waste collections.

We must check every large waste container by knocking on the side, giving it a good shake, and opening the lid before moving it to ensure there are no signs of life inside. Anything unusual that you do find must be reported to your line manager immediately, so they can guide you through the next appropriate action to take. If you come across a rough sleeper in a waste container, you must fill in a near miss form.

Available through the QR code is a short video clip that can be used as a toolbox talk that covers the risks associated with people in bins and measures to prevent. Alongside this we have produced a poster to display at sites to promote this month's theme within your organisation and a huddle card (see attached). The huddle card is a resource designed to accompany the toolbox talk, giving safety leaders pointers for discussion, and encouraging your teams to share their thoughts, experiences, and opinions.

**Situational awareness is continuously **assessing** your surroundings, identifying any **potential hazards** which will inform your **decision making** on how to carry out your work safely.**

# HUDDLE CARD

## People in bins

### Huddle discussion

Wherever we work and whatever our role, we all share a common goal, keeping ourselves and others safe.

Introduce and show the video. After showing the video use this huddle card to generate a conversation about the theme, confirm understanding and seek collective feedback.



### No job is so important we cannot take time and do it safely

- ▶ Have you or your work colleagues ever experienced a rough sleeper in our bins/containers before?
- ▶ What signs may indicate if someone is or has been sleeping in a bin before opening the lid?
- ▶ What conditions will likely give rise to the potential for rough sleepers to seek shelter inside bins?
- ▶ How would we approach the rough sleeper if found?

### We look out for and trust each other

- ▶ Would you challenge a colleague that didn't follow the procedure of checking for rough sleepers?

### We share and seek ideas for improvement

- ▶ How can we promote the issues associated with rough sleepers with our customers or clients?



← Scan the QR code to access the digital campaign content

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