

# How a Waste Management Leader Transformed Hearing Safety with Sensear

**Client:** Solid Waste District

**Industry:** Solid Waste

## Overview

Solid waste and recycling facilities are some of the noisiest industrial environments in the U.S.—yet they're often overlooked by regulatory hearing protection standards. With sound levels regularly exceeding 100 dB(A), workers in these settings face serious risks to their hearing and their safety.



That's why one leading waste and recycling company partnered with Sensear to implement a **new standard of protection**—one that combined clear team communication, real-time situational awareness, and OSHA-compliant hearing safety in a single solution.

## The Challenge

Waste processing plants present a unique set of acoustic hazards that many off-the-shelf PPE solutions can't handle.

- **Extreme Noise:** Industrial balers, compactors, conveyor systems, and truck loading zones regularly exceed safe exposure thresholds.
- **No OSHA Coverage:** Recycling centers, unlike some other industries, aren't always federally required to monitor or mitigate high-noise exposure.
- **Poor Communication:** Workers couldn't hear instructions or alerts, even while wearing basic protection.
- **Low PPE Adoption:** Existing earmuffs were uncomfortable, isolating, and difficult to integrate into daily workflows.
- **Increased Safety Risk:** Removing hearing protection to communicate became a dangerous norm.

As solid waste facilities face increasing noise risks and limited regulatory coverage, Sensear's high-noise communication headsets are becoming a vital safety solution. From landfill operations to recycling centers, workers now stay protected, aware, and confidently connected.



## The Solution

Sensear introduced SENS® enabled SM1 series headsets to allow workers to hear their surroundings, communicate with each other, and stay protected at all times. The result was a shift from reactive noise control to a proactive, team-based safety solution.

## What Made the Difference:

- **Full Situational Awareness** while using Two-way radios or Bluetooth® devices
- **Clear Face-To-Face Conversation** without removing PPE
- **FM Short-Range Communication**—ideal for 1:1 comms within 50 meters
- **Rugged, Over-Ear Design** built for harsh field conditions
- **Future-Ready** planning for IS headset deployment in hazardous zones

Teams now maintain full communication and hearing safety in 100+ dB(A) environments—without removing PPE or relying on hand signals.

## The Results

The implementation of Sensear's communication headsets led to measurable outcomes:

- **Increased Hearing Safety:** Employees no longer removed protection to communicate.
- **Higher Team Efficiency:** Instructions and alerts were heard the first time.
- **Improved Morale & Focus:** Less frustration, fewer misunderstandings.
- **Better Compliance:** Earmuff usage increased thanks to comfort and functionality.
- **Safer Workflows:** Spotters, drivers, and ground crews stayed in sync.

## Looking Ahead

As waste and recycling operations grow louder and more fast-paced, Sensear's high-noise communication headsets are becoming essential on the job. From landfill traffic control to materials recovery facilities, teams now work with greater clarity, protection, and confidence.

## Conclusion

Whether working beside a conveyor belt, inside a noisy materials recovery facility, or directing landfill traffic—

**Sensear makes it possible.**

Sensear helps waste and recycling teams hear, speak, and stay safe in high-noise conditions that demand full awareness.

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