



### D30 Death Caused by Trash Collector Crushing: A Case Report

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn about a case, which had limited exposure in the form of literature. In the presented case, the victim had initial blunt trauma to the chest, which evolved into open trauma, and resulted in a death due to a trash collector's actions.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by explaining, that unlike "traditional" blunt force trauma, a body that has had an extreme amount of force placed on it from an "externalized" source makes for a novel mode of death and detection of the body.

The victim was a 71-year-old Caucasian male whose corpse was found in a public landfill. When the corpse was discovered it was in an advanced state of putrefaction. The victim had the habit of looking through trash dumpsters and it appears that the victim lost his balance and fell inside the dumpster. Once the victim was inside the dumpster, the lid closed. The victim could not open the dumpster's locked lid, as it could only be opened from the outside by way of a foot pedal, due to a unique spring mechanism.

The victim remained in the dumpster for at least a few hours, possibly having been stunned by the smell of the garbage, and was crushed/compressed by the trash vehicle that collected the trash. The now compressed victim, inside the dumpster, was taken to the public municipal landfill the next day where the dumpster was emptied.

The victim, who sustained a high degree of compression, was crushed. There was closed trauma to the chest and due to the compaction forces lead to complex injuries. The injuries that were sustained by the victim were evisceration of the thoracic and abdominal organs, crushing to the chest, spine and bones, migration of the thoracic organs from its diaphragmatic breach, explosive injuries to multiple organs, and decay of parenchymatous organs which resulted in the virtual instantaneous death of the victim.

The autopsy report of this victim will be presented. Photographic material will show the presence of large hemorrhagic infiltrations, fractures and galeal bleeding of the victim's head and will confirm that the victim was alive when he fell into the dumpster, and that his death could not have been a result of anything else, except being crushed/compressed to death in the dumpster.

#### **Trash Collector, Blunt Trauma Chest, Crushing**