

# Proven Methods for Reducing the Incidence of Violence Against Drivers

The following was provided by John Meola, the nationally recognized Safety Advisor who provides a monthly Safety First! alert to the members of the World Sweeping Association



- Vehicle has sign or decal saying 'Driver Carries No Cash.'
- Vehicle has sign or decal saying "Video Camera in use" or similar language.
- Vehicle has BRIGHT lights all around it, especially when driver is on the ground.
- Driver is wearing High-Vis Apparel – upper body and maybe also pants, for ultra high conspicuity.
- Driver is instructed to stay in well-lit areas, avoiding obscure areas whenever possible.
- If the debris to be removed is not something critical he should just drive around it, or come back in daytime, or otherwise avoid exiting the cab for some random reason.
- Driver should remain in the cab with doors LOCKED and windows rolled up whenever possible.
- In questionable areas if the driver must exit the vehicle, he should have a VERY LOUD AIR HORN (marine supply store) for use in an emergency. These horns are so loud they can damage your hearing up close. This should be used as a 'defensive' warning measure when the driver feels threatened.
- If the truck has a warning alarm or theft alarm, on the key fob for example, the driver should take it with them on the ground. They can then activate it if the situation looks dangerous. (This is a common advisory to persons in residential areas: If there's a break-in or other commotion overnight, hit the car alarm button and make a big noise. This tends to discourage random criminals.)
- **Note: One thing I do not recommend is to give the operators weaponry...**