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**New tarpaARMOR™ Fall Protection System
Provides Refuse Workers with a Higher Level of Protection**
System keeps collection and maintenance workers safe on top of trucks

Las Vegas (June 9, 2009) WasteExpo Booth #16106 – Climbing onto a refuse collection vehicle is always a risky move, especially in rain, wind or snow. One misstep can cause a fall, leading to serious injury or death; yet drivers and technicians scramble onto their trucks regularly, whether to clear a cab shield, collect a dropped bag, tie down a tarp or perform maintenance. To help manage these risks, tarpaARMOR™ introduces a new line of products designed to protect employees while they work on top of garbage trucks and to enable them to perform more of their duties at ground level.

The new tarpaARMOR Fall Protection System includes Bi-LINE® Fall Restraint, safeMOUNT™ Ladder Assist and Expandable Garbage Gear™ (EGG).

“Workers are safest when their feet are firmly on the ground. The Expandable Garbage Gear tools were designed to make it possible to clean cab shields, tarp loads and perform other jobs from ground level, to reduce the need for operators and maintenance workers to climb onto trucks,” explains Shannon Harrop, tarpaARMOR national account director. “But some tasks simply must be performed while on top of the vehicle. For those occasions, our safeMOUNT Ladder Assist and Bi-LINE Fall Restraint enable workers to safely access and work on top of front loaders, side loaders, rear loaders and transfer trailers without the risk of falls.”

Bi-LINE Fall Restraint is the centerpiece of the tarpaARMOR Fall Protection System. It consists of two parallel restraint lines that are permanently mounted to the top of the vehicle body, a dual lanyard that connects to the restraint lines, and a comfortable belt worn by the operator. Once the operator reaches the top of the vehicle, he clips his belt into the system using a swivel hook on the lanyard. He is then able to walk the full length and width of the vehicle, while being prevented from going over the edge. As a result, he can’t fall off the vehicle or into the hopper. Bi-LINE can be specified on new vehicles or retrofitted to those already in the field. Its low profile protects it from tree branches and other obstructions.



Maneuvering from the body-mounted ladder onto the top of a refuse collection vehicle can be tricky. The new safeMOUNT Ladder Assist eases the transition from fixed ladder to vehicle roof by serving as a handrail extension that rises well above the top of the ladder and the vehicle. The bolt-on device allows operators to maintain three points of contact as they transition to the top of the vehicle, thereby reducing the chance of losing their balance or slipping before they're connected to the Bi-LINE Fall Restraint. When not in use, safeMOUNT retracts out of the way next to the ladder.

The Expandable Garbage Gear line includes a number of tools that can be used to safely clean and maintain vehicles from ground level or above. The line includes two expandable reaching poles, one that extends from four to eight feet and one that extends from six to 12 feet. These extension poles can be quickly fitted with various attachments, including the trukBRUSH™ and the tarpTAMER™. The trukBRUSH attachment is a combination brush and scraper that can be extended to sweep front loader cab shields and safely clean tailgate seals without walking under a raised tailgate. It is also used on rear loaders to clean the packing/sweep blade from a safe distance. The tarpTAMER™ attachment is a multifunction hook used to position tarps and secure bungee cords without climbing onto the truck. Mounting brackets are available to conveniently store the tools on the vehicle. The EGG line also includes the trashTONG™, an industrial-strength, five-foot long reaching gripper. The trashTONG can be used to reach loose or bagged trash in areas that are normally inaccessible, such as behind the packing blade, or in high temperature areas of the cab shield and between the cab and body where there is a risk of fire if combustible material collects.

For more information about the tarpARMOR Fall Protection System, visit the Web site at www.tarpARMOR.com or call (800) 427-9368.

About tarpARMOR

tarpARMOR is a division of Southwestern Sales Company. In addition to the tarpARMOR Fall Protection System, tarpARMOR manufactures and distributes a wide range of tarps, including truck tarps, landfill alternative daily covers, and athletic field covers. Southwestern Sales was founded in 1977 as an industrial fabric supplier to the agricultural industry. From its headquarters in Rogers, Ark., Southwestern Sales is a major supplier of fabricated products to agricultural, transportation, and refuse collection markets worldwide.

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Editor's Note: Please see photos as high-res jpegs on enclosed CD.

Captions:



Bi-LINE Fall Restraint.jpg: Bi-LINE Fall Restraint[®] is the centerpiece of the tarpARMOR[™] Fall Protection System. It allows vehicle operators and maintenance personnel to safely work on top of refuse collection vehicles without falling off.



safeMOUNT Ladder Assist.jpg: The safeMOUNT[™] Ladder Assist from tarpARMOR[™] serves as a handrail extension that enables workers to maintain three points of contact as they move from the body-mounted ladder onto the top of a refuse collection vehicle, minimizing the risk that they'll lose their balance or slip.



Expandable Garbage Gear.jpg: The Expandable Garbage Gear[™] line from tarpARMOR[™] features tools that can be used to safely clean and maintain refuse collection vehicles from ground level or above. The line includes (from left to right) the trukBRUSH[™] scraper and brush attachment, the tarpTAMER[™] multifunction hook, two expandable reaching poles, and the trashTONG[™] industrial-strength reaching gripper.