

GOVERNMENT PRODUCT NEWS

Combing the Beaches with Automated Trash Removal

Maintaining and cleaning 17 miles of beaches presented challenges to James Hoover, beach operations and maintenance supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department of Metro Dade County, Fla.

When his department was faced with major budget cuts several years ago, Hoover looked for ways to achieve the cost savings without hampering beach cleanup.

A time-saving solution came via a Load-and-Pack vehicle, made by Broyhill Mfg. Co., Dakota City, Neb.

By automating trash pickup with the Load-and-Pack, Hoover was able to reduce his work crew by the equivalent of 12 full-time employees. The vehicle allowed one operator to do what formerly took four workers and a truck.

Boasting an hydraulically-operated, front lifting arm, the vehicle can grasp, lift, and empty 26- to 96-gal. capacity containers. The entire cycle, which includes returning the empty container to the ground, takes about five seconds.

The vehicle's collection box can hold about 3,700 lbs. of compacted refuse. When full, the load can be dumped into a standard refuse compactor truck.

Thanks to four-wheel drive, Load-and-Pack can conquer soft beach sand as well as grass, paved surfaces, and even snow and ice.

The vehicle can also assist recycling. Cans, glass or other recyclables can be placed in color-coded containers, and the operator can empty the containers in sequence.

Besides saving time for Hoover's staff, Load-and Pack adds safety to beach cleanup. The system reduces on-the-job injuries by eliminating manual lifting of heavy trash containers. In addition, the vehicle can turn and move on to the next container without backing up, which is a big plus on crowded beaches.

An automated trash-collection vehicle helps spruce up 17 miles of Florida beaches.

