

DC 37 SAFETY AND HEALTH FACT SHEET

BACKING UP SAFETY

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Vehicles Causing the Most Back over Fatalities 2005-2010*

Dump Truck	67
Semi/Tractor Trailer	40
Truck	30
Forklift	21
Garbage Truck	20
Pick-up Truck	1

OSHA Integrated Management Information System data

Statistics

- 156 Pedestrian Fatalities in Work Zones 2020
- 857 Total Work Zone Fatalities in 2020
- 7.2% Struck by Objects or Equipment
- 2.0% Caught in/Between objects or Equipment.

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Backing up deaths are preventable. A back over incident occurs when a backing vehicle strikes a worker who is standing, walking, or kneeling behind the vehicle.

Most drivers spend less than 1% of their driving time in reverse, yet national statistics indicate that about one-quarter of all collisions occur while backing. Over 70 workers died from back over incidents in 2011 as per Bureau of Labor Statistics

How to Prevent Back Over incidents?

Adjust Mirrors

Adjust rearview mirror and side mirrors to maximize visibility.

Rear-Vision Camera Systems

Equip vehicles with cameras that have in-vehicle display monitors displaying what is behind the vehicle.

Back Up Alarms

Sound alerts anyone in vicinity that the vehicle is moving backwards.

Proximity Alarms

Alert drivers to objects behind them.

Spotter

Use a Spotter when backing up vehicles. A Spotter's position should not be directly behind the vehicle but positioned outside of the vehicles direct pathway and in the driver's line of sight.

Driver should immediately stop if they lose sight of spotter.

Spotters should wear ANSI approved Hi-visibility retroreflective clothing especially at night.

Blind spot

Blind spots behind and around vehicles are not immediately obvious to workers. Be aware of the vehicle's blind spot and stay out of the blind spot. For additional information on blind diagrams for various construction vehicles visit the following website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/highwayworkzones/BAD/imagelookup.html>

Pay Attention

Maintain focus, be aware of immediate surroundings and minimize distractions.

Walk around Vehicle

When possible exit the vehicle and walk around to assess any hazards behind the vehicle.

Remove any moveable objects that may impede visibility.

If other vehicles or moveable obstacle are too close to the driver's path, remove them.

Back Slowly

Reduce speed, move slowly and cover brake with foot.

Training

Provide information on specific vehicle blind spots, safety technology, and safe work practices.

Internal Control Plans

Create entry and exit traffic flow plans for vehicles that reduce the need to back up.

Reminder: Large vehicles, such as semi-trucks, construction vehicles, Flow Boy trucks, Dump trailers, Asphalt Paving Machine, and vehicles equipped with trailers, present more severe backing hazards. These vehicles have significantly larger blind spots than standard vehicles.

Sources OSHA; NIOSH

OSHA Integrated Management Information System data

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation