

Safety-Gram

Title 45, Chapter 11

September 2018

Volume 19, Number 9



Back Up/Rear View

Safety

Several fatalities happen every year due to backover incidents. A backover incident occurs when a backing vehicle hits a worker(s) who is standing, walking or kneeling behind the vehicle.

The following are examples of back-over prevention methods:

- Put a backup alarm on everything larger than a pickup truck that moves! The louder the better.
- A designated spotter should be assigned. Spotters must wear high-viz gear and stay in sight of the driver. If your driver is alone, enforce the GET OUT AND LOOK policy.
- Rear mounted cameras: Word to the wise: buy it! Work at night? They have cameras for that too.
- Visual verification: Radios are an excellent resource but they cannot beat visual verification.
- Plan your work site: Create a plan to minimize backing and keep order.
- Place a cone at the rear of the vehicle, to force you to check the rear before moving.
- Before getting into the vehicle, do a walk-around inspection. Look for anything and everything.
- Stay focused, finish the job and go home. Avoid distractions, such as playing with your phone.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): EVERYONE, including the operator should be wearing all proper PPE.
- Working at night? Bad Weather?: Everything above X 2.

All of these tools and/or methods are important, but they are only as good as they are implemented. No operator is perfect and it doesn't matter how many years they have performed a certain task. They are still capable of making mistakes. Watch out for each other.

