

BACK OVER PREVENTION

Every time vehicles or equipment are going in reverse there is a new opportunity for a dangerous back over or struck-by incident. Drivers may drive the same vehicles, operate the same equipment, or back out of the same spot every day, but new hazards can arise and it's important that drivers never become complacent.

- On job sites with moving vehicles and heavy equipment all workers should be wearing high-visibility clothing like safety vests or jackets.
- When possible, create (and use!) separate paths for pedestrians and equipment and make sure those travel routes remain clearly marked.
- Traffic control plans specific to the work site can be created in such a way that creates routes for that minimize the need for vehicles to drive in reverse.



As the driver or equipment operator, consider the following safety precautions anytime you put the vehicle into reverse:

- Avoid distractions – backing up requires concentration and your full attention.
- Use an experienced spotter if you do not have full view of the path of travel and potential hazards. Agree on hand signals before starting and keep the spotter in sight at all times while they are guiding.
- Do not assume that people will notice the vehicle is moving. Often pedestrians are distracted or looking in a different direction and will not notice that a vehicle is starting to back up. If you see someone in your path of travel, stop and wait.
- Increase the vehicle's visibility if you can – turn on the hazard lights, honk the horn, or ensure the back-up alarm is working (if required).
- Back the vehicle up slowly, cover the brake while in reverse, and keep the backing distance to a minimum.
- Remain calm and do not hesitate to start over if you need to get a better angle. Take as many attempts as you need to, even if traffic is stopped or others are waiting, to complete the reverse maneuver safely.

Discussion

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Before backing up you might do a walk-around first, what hazards are you looking for?

To prevent back over incidents what are some ways you could avoid driving in reverse?