

BACKING SAFETY

Backing accidents can happen for a variety of reasons. Drivers may not be able to see an employee in their blind spot. Employees may not hear backup alarms due to other worksite noises. A spotter assisting one vehicle may not see another vehicle behind. Sometimes, it is unclear why an employee was in the path of a backing vehicle.



Since these incidents can occur in several different circumstances, it is important for all employees to be aware and implement preventive measures.

SPOTTER

- Use agreed upon hand signals to communicate with the driver
- Always maintain visual contact with the driver while the vehicle is backing
- Maintain a clear view of the hazard area (driver's blind spot) behind the vehicle
- Avoid walking backwards
- Stay clear of the vehicle's path
- DO not take on additional duties while you are a spotter
- DO not use personal mobile phones, personal headphones, or any other items that could pose a distraction during spotting activities
- IMMEDIATELY signal driver to stop if any person or object enters area behind vehicle
- Wear high-visibility clothing, use lights during night operations

DRIVER

BEFORE backing:

- **Get Out And Look (GOAL)**
- Turn on the vehicle's hazard lights
- Roll down the window
- Turn off radios
- Make sure no one is riding on the vehicle
- Visually locate workers on foot to ensure they are clear of the vehicle's path



- **WHEN** backing:
 - Immediately stop if visual contact is lost with the spotter
 - Always use a spotter
 - Use agreed upon signals to communicate with the spotter
 - Follow any internal traffic control plan

EMPLOYEE

- Never cross or step behind a backing vehicle or when backup lights are on or alarm is sounding
- Identify the work zone and follow established safety procedures
- Be extremely observant of the driver's blind spot behind the vehicle
- Recognize backup warning alarms!