



Prevent Backover Injuries and Deaths

Backing vehicles and equipment are a serious occupational hazard. To help prevent backover injuries and deaths, NIOSH recommends a number of standard operating procedures:

- ◆ Create and enforce an operating procedure that addresses how to work safely and lists best practices to follow when working near vehicles and other equipment.
- ◆ Take precautions. Use equipment that creates minimal blind spots or has proximity warning devices.
- ◆ Hire a competent person to supervise worksites involving backing vehicles and equipment.
- ◆ Use barrels, barricades, cones or reflective devices to guide vehicles and equipment away from workers.
- ◆ Establish safety procedures for working at night with backing equipment. Ensure high-visibility apparel is worn.
- ◆ Before work begins, design the worksites to minimize or eliminate the need for backing vehicles and equipment.
- ◆ Be sure drivers know not to back up equipment unless they are under the direction of a spotter.
- ◆ Post signs informing workers where it is safe to walk.

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