

TOOL BOX TALKS

Death by Backing

Utilities

Backing accidents routinely injure and kill employees. Although these accidents are extremely common, they are also preventable. Backing accidents can be prevented by taking relatively easy steps. Please review the following safety tips with your employees.

Toolbox Tips

1. Backing is difficult because job sites are loud, dusty and congested. Never assume, always verify before backing.
2. Always use a backer if personnel are available. If a backer is not available, use the G.O.A.L. method.
 - G—Get
 - O—Out
 - A—And
 - L—Look
3. The driver and backer must agree on a stop signal.
4. If the driver loses sight of the backer in the mirrors, the driver must stop the truck or machine.
5. When backing machines, the backer must stay behind the truck or machine.
6. Backers must wear reflective gear during daytime and nighttime work.
7. The driver must not back faster than walking speed.
8. Keep back up alarms and reverse floodlighting in good working order.
9. Sound air horns before backing.
10. Activate warning lighting if equipped.
11. Stop and adjust mirrors often and keep them tightened.
12. Clean mirrors and all other glass in the vehicle.
13. Employees must stay in clear view of drivers.



Keep mirrors adjusted and clean. Do not rely solely on your mirror's field of view — verify the path is clear before backing.



Keep backup alarms, warning lights and reverse lighting in good working order.



This truck was involved in a fatality backing accident.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

For more information:



www.worksafecenter.com



1.888.499.SAFE (7233)

Missouri Employers Mutual

Work SAFE