

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Death by Backing

Backing accidents are completely preventable. Unfortunately backing accidents are extremely common. Just take a look at the bumpers of the cars parked in your local shopping mall parking lot. Check out all of those dents, dings and scrapes. But backing accidents routinely severely injure and kill workers. Backing accidents can be prevented by taking relatively easy steps. Review these safety tips with workers on your crew. Do what it takes to prevent backing fatalities.

## WORKSAFE TIPS

### BACKING ACCIDENTS ARE PREVENTABLE

- Is this job worth killing a coworker?
  - Are we in such a hurry that someone has to die?
  - Backing is difficult because jobsites are loud, dusty and congested.
  - NEVER ASSUME-always verify before backing!
  - Employees may be distracted and may not hear or see your truck or machine as it is backing.
  - At night jobsites can be difficult to see through.
  - Truck mirrors get dusty, wet and icy easily and they vibrate and swing out of adjustment.
  - Only back if absolutely necessary.
  - 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
  - The driver and backer must agree on a STOP signal.
  - If the driver loses sight of the backer in the mirrors, the driver must stop the truck or machine.
  - When backing machines, the backer must stay out from behind the truck or machine.
  - Backers must wear reflective gear during daytime and nighttime work.
  - The driver must not back faster than walking speed.
- Keep back up alarms and reverse floodlighting in good working order.
  - Sound air horns before backing.
  - Activate warning lighting if equipped.
  - Stop and adjust mirrors often & keep them tightened.
  - Clean mirrors and all glass in the vehicle.
  - Workers must stay in clear view of drivers.



Keep mirrors adjusted and clean. Don't rely only on your mirror's field of view – verify the path is clear before backing. Someone's life depends on your safe backing habits.

KEEP BACKUP ALARMS, WARNING LIGHTS AND REVERSE LIGHTING IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.



THIS TRUCK WAS INVOLVED IN A FATALITY BACKING ACCIDENT.



**Smart, Accident-Free Environments**

*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.*

888.499.SAFE (7233)