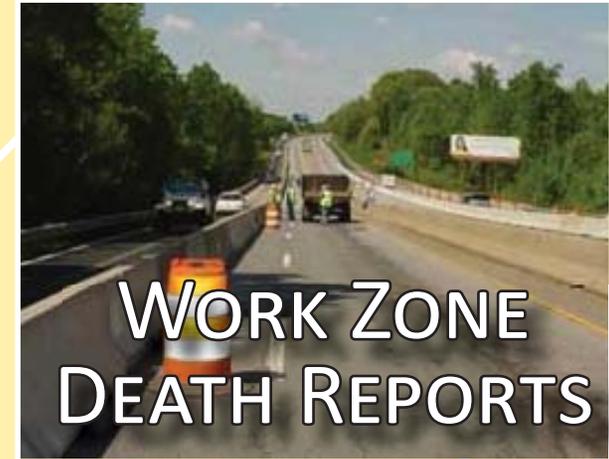




Photo of the roadway construction work zone.



Photo of the mirrors mounted on each door of the dump truck. west along the shoulder of the eastbound lane.



Hispanic Laborer Run Over and Killed by a Backing Flat Bed Dump Truck

North Carolina Case Report

Through the OSHA and Roadway Work Zone Safety and Health Partners Alliance, the Alliance participants developed this case study for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor January 2011.

On April 26, 2004 NC, a 26-year-old Hispanic laborer was backed over by a flat bed dump truck while working on a roadway work site.

What Happened?

The victim (Flat bed dump truck driver)drove his dump truck westward through the work site, while a laborer threw brackets used to secure concrete barriers onto the ground.

Once completed, the victim parked the truck and walked to the tailgate area, where he met up with the laborer. The victim and the laborer began walking eastward together, towards the rest of the crew, with the victim walking a few steps in front of the laborer.

A different driver got into the dump truck to drive to another work site. Prior to leaving, the driver received a radio call that he could not understand. He placed the truck into reverse, to back towards the crew (east) to ask what was needed. The laborer behind the victim saw another worker from the crew running, waving his hands and yelling; simultaneously he got a glimpse of the moving truck on his left side.

The laborer jumped to his right and shouted a warning to the victim walking in front of him. After feeling a “thud,” the driver stopped. He got out of the truck, found the victim lying on the ground and called 911.

Who Got Hurt?

The victim was transported by ambulance to a hospital, and was pronounced dead in the emergency room.

What Can Be Done to Avoid Similar Fatalities?

Management:

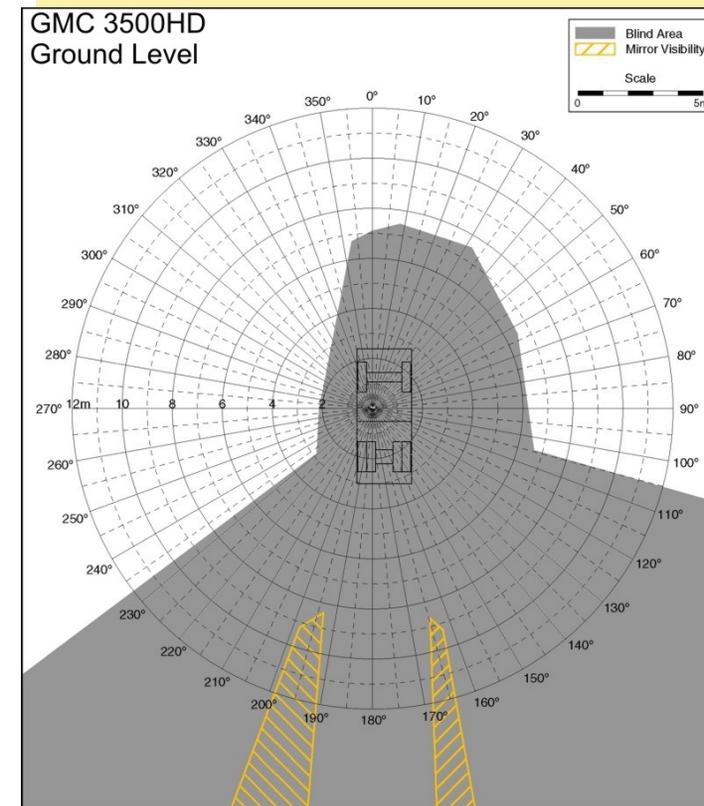
- Ensure training meets language and literacy level needs of all workers.
- Develop and implement specific training for operators and workers on foot regarding driver blind areas on equipment
- Develop, implement and enforce procedures that minimize exposure of workers on foot to moving vehicles and equipment
- Ensure backing procedures are in place and that drivers have communication with workers on foot and use a designated spotter to direct backing.

Workers:

- Stay out of “blind spots.”
- Assume that the driver cannot see you if you can’t see them.
- Know the Traffic Control Plan (TCP). Operators should never back up blindly.

NIOSH has recently developed a library of diagrams showing the size and shape of the blind spots from a variety of construction vehicles.

The sample below shows the blindspot for a similar dump truck described in this report.



Blindspot and Spanish language resources developed by alliance partners are available at no cost on www.workzonesafety.org