What Should We Know About Spotters?

Spotters are recommended by NIOSH, ANSI, and other experts.

Spotters:
- Are required by some states when cameras/radar systems are not used.
- Can also be in danger — who spots the spotters?
- Can help protect workers with their backs to equipment or traffic.

If you lose visual contact with spotter, stop until you reconnect.

Are Runovers and Backovers a Problem?

Runovers and backovers are the main cause of road worker deaths. Facts:

- In recent years, about two-thirds of road worker deaths were due to runovers/backovers.
- More than half are by construction vehicles and equipment — especially dump trucks.

Look out for each other, warn coworkers!

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How Do We Learn About the ITCP?

Get a copy of the Internal Traffic Control Plan from the site safety officer or foreman.

Review ITCP:

What Are Basic Backing Rules?

Avoid backing unless it is absolutely necessary.

Backing rules:

- Never back up unless you are certain no workers on foot are behind — get out of cab to check if necessary.
- If no spotter is assigned, ask someone to spot for you.
- If you see a worker in the mirror, stop until you are certain the worker is in a safe position.
- Never assume a worker will walk safely behind the vehicle — don’t continue backing until you know worker is safely in the clear.

What Prevention Devices Can We Use?

Alarms, cameras, radar systems, and mirrors can be used.

Back-up alarms:

- Make sure alarm is working.
- Alarms with broadband white noise make it easier to distinguish/locate.
  
  *Alarms were inoperable in 28% of fatalities.*

Video cameras:

- Properly mounted cameras eliminate ‘blind spots’ in rear view mirrors.
- Best system pairs camera with sensor to tell driver to look at screen.

Radar systems:

- Warn drivers as vehicle nears an object.

Mirrors:

- Not high-tech — must be working, clean, properly adjusted.
- May still be blind spots.