

BACKING UP

Fatal accidents resulting from workers being backed over by dump trucks and other equipment occur all too frequently. Anyone on foot in the vicinity of reversing vehicles and equipment is at risk.

BLIND SPOTS

The main problem with reversing vehicles and equipment is the driver or operator's restricted view.

Consequently the driver or operator must rely on mirrors or signalers to backup without running over someone or into something.

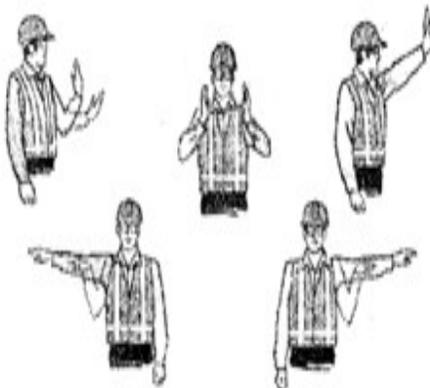
Dump trucks and cranes are the kinds of equipment that hit overhead power lines most often. Beware of power line contact whenever a vehicle is going to be operated near an overhead electrical conductor. If equipment operates within reach of the minimum permitted distance from an overhead power line, the constructor is required to have written procedures in place to prevent the equipment from encroaching on the minimum distance.

SIGNALLERS

You must have a signaler or spotter when:

- a. A vehicle or equipment operator's view of the intended path of travel is obstructed
- b. A person could be endangered by the operation of the vehicle equipment, or by its load.
- c. Any part of the equipment could encroach on the minimum distance to an overhead power line.

A signaler must be a competent worker and must not have any other duties to fulfill while acting as a signaler.



The Signaller/Spotter must maintain clear and continuous visual contact with the operator at all times while the vehicle or equipment is moving and be able to communicate with the operator using clearly understood hand signals. He/she must warn other workers on foot of the approaching vehicle or equipment and must alert the operator to any hazards along the route.

WORKERS ON FOOT

- Know how to work safely around trucks and equipment.
- Avoid entering or standing in blind spots.
- Make eye contact with the driver or operator **before** approaching equipment.
- Signal intentions to the driver or operator.
- When possible, use separate access rather than vehicle ramps to enter or exit the sites.
- Avoid standing and talking near vehicle paths, grading operations, and other activities where heavy equipment is moving back and forth.

DRIVER & OPERATORS

- Always obey the signaler and spotter. If we have more than 1 person signaling, stop your vehicle and determine which one to obey.
- If possible, remain in the cab area where other equipment is likely to be backing up.
- Make sure that all mirrors are in tack, functional, and properly adjusted for the best view.
- Blow your horn twice before backing up.
- When no spotter is present, get out and quickly walk around your vehicle. If the way is clear, back up at once.
- Stop the vehicle when a spotter, worker, or anyone else disappears from view.

SIGNALLERS

- Stay alert to recognize and deal with dangerous situations.
- Know and use the standard signals for on-site traffic (Figure 3).
- Wear a reflective fluorescent or brite orange vest and a bright hard hat for high visibility.
- Use a signal device such as a bullhorn in congested excavation areas.
- Understand the maneuvering limitations of vehicles and equipment.
- Know driver and operator blind spots.
- Stand where you can see and be seen by the driver/operator.
- Make eye contact with the driver/operator before signaling or changing location.