



# Work Zone Safety: Vehicle Operators

Each month, about five workers are killed and many more injured as a result of being hit or backed over by a construction vehicle.

## Jean and Bob's Story

Jean and Bob were delivering materials to a job site. Jean parked the truck and walked to the tailgate area to make sure the materials had all been unloaded. A site manager asked Bob to move the truck. Bob put the truck in reverse and began backing up. He did not realize that Jean and another worker were still behind the truck until he heard yelling and felt a thud. He stopped the truck and got out to see what had happened. The other worker had been able to jump to safety, but Jean had been hit by the truck. She was taken by ambulance to the emergency room where she died from her injuries.

- ✘ What caused this incident?
- ✘ How could this have been prevented?
- ✘ Have you ever come close to hitting a worker while operating a construction vehicle, or do you know someone who has? If yes, what happened?

## Remember This

Before operating a construction vehicle, check to make sure the following parts are working properly:

- Service, emergency, and parking brakes

- Back-up alarm or horn
- Steering mechanism
- Operating controls
- Tires
- Seat belts

### When operating equipment:

- **Avoid backing up whenever possible.** Park so you can pull in and out by driving forward.
- Make sure mirrors are clean and positioned properly.
- Obey signs and follow designated travel routes.
- Turn off radios and other distracting devices.
- Before moving, **always** check blind spots and the area around you to make sure there are no workers or pedestrians.
- Use a spotter and make sure you both understand the backing hand signals.
- Follow spotter and flagger directions. Stop if you lose sight of the spotter.
- **Always** use the back-up alarm or beep your horn 2 times before reversing.
- Do not back up more than 100 feet before stopping and checking that the area is still clear.
- Keep windows open so you can see and hear workers and others nearby.
- Use your seat belt.

## How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at this worksite to avoid backing over or hitting workers in the work zone?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



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- ✓ Always check to make sure the vehicle and safety features are working properly before operating a vehicle.
- ✓ Always check the area around you to make sure there are no workers or pedestrians before moving.
- ✓ Always use the back-up alarm or beep your horn 2 times before reversing.