



Data and Recommendations to Reduce Dump Truck-related Deaths

Dump Truck-Related Deaths in Construction, 1992-2007

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Overview

Eight hundred twenty-nine construction workers were reported killed in dump truck-related accidents between 1992 and 2007, an average of 55 per year. The authors reviewed the occupation of the victims as well as the causes, location and circumstances of the accidents in order to make recommendations for their abatement.

Key Findings

- Of the 829 fatalities, 336 – just over 40% – were incurred by workers operating the dump truck, and nearly two-thirds of these occurred on streets and highways outside the construction site. At least one-fourth of the victims, and probably many more, were not wearing seat belts at the time of the accident.
- Three hundred forty-three (343) of the fatalities – also a bit more than 40% – were incurred by workers on foot working with or in the vicinity of the dump truck. Ninety-three percent (93%) of these fatalities occurred on the construction site. Most of the victims (more than 70%) were struck by the vehicle, and 154 of the victims (nearly half) were construction laborers.
- Accidents involving trucks backing up claimed the lives of 60% of the workers struck by dump trucks on construction sites.

Recommendations:

- Proper use of seat belts offers the promise of significantly reducing occupational fatalities among dump truck drivers. Current OSHA regulations require installation of seat belts but not wearing them; OSHA should require dump truck drivers to wear seat belts while operating their vehicles.
- Improved warning systems for trucks backing up offer the promise of significantly reducing dump-truck related fatalities among laborers and others working around the vehicles on construction sites. OSHA should require the use of spotters or other methods to alert dump truck operators to the presence of workers on foot in the blind spots of their trucks.

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See abstract:

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