In construction, the potential for injury begins upon arrival at the job site. Construction hazards can be present even before a worker exits their vehicle or when driving around the site.

Workers should practice safe procedures when driving all types of vehicles and construction equipment to avoid creating hazards to themselves and their co-workers. Backing up equipment or vehicles can be especially dangerous if workers fail to follow safe operating procedures.

**Vehicles Causing the Most Backover Fatalities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>in order of fatality incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dump Truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi/Tractor Trailer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forklift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage Truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick-up Truck</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OSHA Integrated Management Information System Data  

(*1)


A 17-year-old male part-time road construction laborer (the victim) died when he was run over by the rear wheels of a water truck. When the victim arrived at the work site, his employer asked him to ride with him in the cab of the water truck. After riding approximately 10 minutes, the employer asked him to get out and go to the rear of the truck to check the fluid gauge on the tank. The truck continued moving forward at 3 to 5 miles per hour.

A coworker, who was driving a tamping roller behind the water truck, saw the victim get off the back of the moving truck after checking the fluid gauge and walk around the truck toward the cab on the passenger side. He then saw the victim stop just before the cab, where he stooped over, leaned under the truck and was run over. The employer last saw the victim in his driver's side mirror when the victim poked his head around the tank from his position on the ladder attached to the rear of the truck. He yelled to the victim to get down and move to the driver's side to get ready to close an external control under the truck on the driver's side. When the employer stopped the truck approximately 30 to 45 seconds after last seeing the victim, he looked back and saw the coworker waving and the victim lying on the road. The coworker called 911 from his cell phone. Personnel from the county sheriff's department and county coroner's office responded within minutes and determined that the victim had sustained fatal head injuries when he was dragged and run over by the rear wheels of the water truck. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

(*2)
➢ All vehicles that will be used must be inspected to assure that they are in safe operating condition and free of apparent damage that could lead to an accident.

➢ Notify the appropriate person and be certain that any damage or defect is corrected before the vehicle is used.

➢ Remove from service any motor vehicle that is found to be defective or has faulty safety devices.

**OSHA Standard 1926.601(b)(14)** All vehicles in use shall be checked at the beginning of each shift to assure that the following parts, equipment, and accessories are in safe operating condition and free of apparent damage that could cause failure while in use:

- service brakes, including trailer brake connections;
- parking system (hand brake);
- emergency stopping system (brakes);
- tires;
- horn;
- steering mechanism;
- coupling devices;
- seat belts;
- operating controls; and
- safety devices.

All defects shall be corrected before the vehicle is placed in service. These requirements also apply to equipment such as

- lights,
- reflectors,
- windshield wipers,
- defrosters,
- fire extinguishers, etc.
➢ Vehicles to transport employees must have seats secured for the number of workers required.

➢ Seat belts must be provided and used by all workers using vehicles and earthmoving equipment such as loaders, dozers, and off-highway trucks.

➢ Never use a vehicle with a damaged seatbelt!

Many states have strict rules against transporting personnel in the back of a pickup truck. Always follow regulations and your site’s safety procedures for transporting co-workers on a site. (*7)

**OSHA Standard 1926.601(b)** says that vehicles used to transport employees shall have seats firmly secured and adequate for the number of employees to be carried and seat belts and anchorages shall be installed in all motor vehicles. **OSHA Standard 1926.602(a)(2)** says that seat belts shall be provided for earthmoving equipment such as scrapers, loaders, crawler or wheel tractors, bulldozers, off-highway trucks, graders, agricultural and industrial tractors, and similar equipment.
➢ Prevent backing incidents by making sure back-up alarms are working, checking the area behind you before reversing, never backing up without having a clear view, and using a highly visible and well-trained spotter.

Suggested Spotting Signals – OSHA.gov (*8)
Remember these tips to keep workers safe when driving on a site:

- Use designated construction entrances and access areas when exiting and entering the job sites.
- Inspect vehicles to assure that they are in safe operating condition and free of apparent damage that could lead to an accident.
- Remove from service any motor vehicle that is found to be defective or has faulty safety devices.
- Seat belts must be provided and used by all workers using vehicles and earthmoving equipment such as loaders, dozers, and off-highway trucks.
- Never use a vehicle with a damaged seatbelt!
- Prevent backing incidents by making sure back-up alarms are working, checking the area behind you before reversing, never backing up without having a clear view, and using a highly visible and well-trained spotter.
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