

SPOTTER SAFETY

Spotting for heavy equipment operators may not seem like a dangerous task, but it certainly is. Back-over incidents occur every year between equipment and spotters which result in serious injuries and even fatalities.

Over the past decade, the majority of these workplace incidents have involved dump trucks, followed by semi-trucks and pickup trucks.

Using a spotter is one of the most effective safeguards for preventing incidents involving pedestrians and machinery, as well as minimizing property damage. But spotters must also strictly follow established safe work practices to ensure their own safety.

SPOTTER SAFETY :

- **SWP for SPOTTING**
- **SAFETY TIPS**





BASIC SAFETY WORK PRACTICES FOR SPOTTING

- **Never walk behind the equipment while spotting.** Always position yourself in a designated safe area where the equipment is moving, and guide it back toward you. *If you can't see the operator, they can't see you.*
- **Establish clear communication.** Agree on hand signals with the equipment operator before beginning any spotting activity.
- **Operators must stop if they lose sight of the spotter.** Continuous visual contact is essential for safety.
- **Inspect the work area.** Look for trip hazards, fixed objects, or any other obstacles that could pose a risk to the equipment or workers.
- **Clear the area before backing.** Remove people, tools and other equipment from the path to eliminate the risk of a collision.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY TIPS

- **Plan to minimize backing.** Design tasks to reduce or eliminate the need for reversing whenever possible.
- **Use pull-through dumping when feasible.** Allow trucks to drive forward through dumping areas instead of backing in. If backing is unavoidable, find paths that limit the need to reverse.
- **Discuss blind spots.** Spotters should talk with operators about equipment blind spots, especially if the spotter is unfamiliar with the machine.
- **Be aware of large blind spots.** For example, large dump trucks can have rear blind spots over 60 feet.
- **Share blind spot awareness.** Ensure everyone on site understands where these blind spots are to stay safe.



Review hand signals and safe work procedures to protect spotters and reduce the risk of back-over incidents.

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