

Runover/Backover Hazard Alert

From 2018 to 2021, 277 U.S. workers died due to being backed over in both roadways and non-roadway areas.¹ In Oregon, sixteen workers have died after being run or backed over since 2018. Most of these cases involved large vehicles with blind spots often used in the transportation and construction industries. In six cases, the workers were hit by their own vehicles after exiting them.

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics [2022]. Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2018–2021.

Please observe the following safety tips:



- Spotters should be assigned to watch out for employees near vehicles with an obstructed view.
- Spotters and drivers should agree on signals before backing up.
- Large vehicles should have cameras or sound sensors to warn the driver when something is in the vehicle's blind spots.
- Ensure that the parking brake is engaged before exiting a vehicle.
- After exiting the vehicle, only go under or behind it if the parking brake is working and the vehicle is on even ground.
- Use wheel chocks to prevent unexpected vehicle movement.

Safety tips source: <https://www.osha.gov/preventing-backovers/solutions>

Examples of Fatal Stories

Case 1: A 63-year-old log truck driver died after sustaining crushing blunt force chest and abdominal injuries. The log truck driver was driving a loaded truck when he stopped at a wide spot along the road. He got out of the truck and was standing at/between the tag axle when the truck rolled forward, crushing him. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

Case 2: A 47-year-old tow-truck driver was accidentally run over by a tow-truck being driven in reverse by a co-worker. He was transported to the hospital and died the next day.

Case 3: A 49-year-old distribution center dock worker was working at the door of a trailer when another employee pulled the trailer away from the loading dock. As a result, the dock worker fell to the ground between the dock and the trailer. When the other employee realized he had moved the wrong trailer, he backed the trailer up again, crushing the dock worker on the ground.

