



Worker dies after being struck by reversing dump truck

A new road was being preloaded with sand and gravel. An engineer walked across a dump truck staging area next to the road while talking on his cellphone. A spotter was using hand signals to direct a loaded dump truck backwards along the staging area. The truck driver was maintaining visual contact with the spotter in his side-view mirror. The dump truck's backup alarm was working normally. Two or three similar backup alarms were also sounding from other nearby mobile equipment.

The spotter turned away from the dump truck for about 10 seconds to check for other vehicles. He continued to motion the dump truck to reverse, without maintaining visual contact with it. During this 10-second interval, the engineer stepped onto the staging area between the spotter and the reversing dump truck. Still talking on the cellphone, he stopped directly behind the reversing vehicle with his back to it. The driver could not see the engineer and continued to reverse as directed by the spotter. The spotter did not see the engineer.

The engineer was unaware that the dump truck was approaching. One of the dump truck's rear tires snagged the back of the engineer's leg, pulling him under the truck. He died from his injuries.

Safe work practices:

- Establish and enforce safe work procedures for working around mobile equipment, including the following:

- the use of cellphones and other communication devices
- wearing high-visibility apparel
- making eye contact with equipment operators or spotters when entering mobile equipment work zones



- Remind spotters or signallers to maintain *continuous* visual contact with mobile equipment operators.
- If practicable, ensure that mobile equipment backup alarms are audible above ambient noise levels.
- If practicable, establish designated pedestrian routes through worksites and use signs to indicate them.