



Agribusiness & Food Solutions

# Safety & Loss Prevention: Backover Safety



Farmworkers are tasked with backing up farm equipment on a daily basis, making backover incidents a serious safety concern. Providing proper training for vehicle operators and enforcing proper backing up techniques are the responsibility of the employer. The following tips are designed to help you train your employees.

## Preventing Backover Incidents

To prevent backover accidents, **employers** should:

EMPLOYERS SHOULD:

*Regularly assess each work location to determine if a traffic control plan is needed.*

*Establish drive-through or circular turnaround areas. Or provide adequate space for operators to perform a three-point turn.*

*Ensure that all turnaround areas are level, firm and well drained to prevent vehicles from tipping over.*

*Determine if a backup camera or system is needed.*

*Never allow workers to eat lunch or rest near active working vehicles and equipment.*

*Determine if a spotter is required.*

*Instruct workers and operators not to use personal mobile phones, headphones or any items that could create a distraction.*

*Provide night work illumination and reflective vests for working in the night schedules.*

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), **Agriculture ranks among the most hazardous industries.** Farmers are at very high risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries; and farming is one of the few industries in which family members (who often share the work and live on the premises) are also at risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries.



To prevent backover accidents, **employees** should:

**EMPLOYEES SHOULD:**

*Stand where they can see the vehicle's mirrors whenever possible.*

*Never go between a moving vehicle and any equipment that is hitched or being towed.*

*Never stand or linger in a vehicle's path.*

*Never rest or sleep next to or under a work vehicle or equipment.*

*Inform other workers when vehicles are approaching.*

*Listen for the vehicle's backup alarm and watch the vehicle's movement.*

*Never assume that the vehicle's operator can see you.*

*Never wear earbuds or headphones when working near farm vehicles and equipment.*

For more information on safety training for your employees including the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers' (ASABE) hand signals for machinery operators, download the complete OSHA Fact Sheet. <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3840.pdf>

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