

What Should We Know About Spotters?



Spotters are recommended by NIOSH, ANSI, and other experts.

Spotters:

- Are required by some states when cameras/radar systems are not used.
- Can also be in danger — who spots the spotters?
- Can help protect workers with their backs to equipment or traffic.

If you lose visual contact with spotter, stop until you reconnect.

Are Runovers and Backovers a Problem?

Runovers and backovers are the main cause of road worker deaths. Facts:

- In recent years, about two-thirds of road worker deaths were due to runovers/backovers.



- More than half are by construction vehicles and equipment — especially dump trucks.

Look out for each other, warn coworkers!

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Runovers: Operators/Drivers

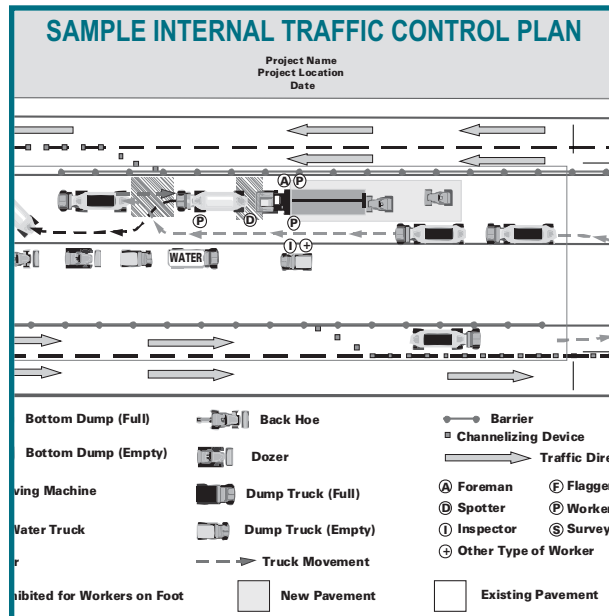


U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

How Do We Learn About the ITCP?

Get a copy of the Internal Traffic Control Plan from the site safety officer or foreman.

Review ITCP:



- Note where workers on foot will work.
- Set up forms of communication with workers on foot.
- Ensure worker and equipment areas are marked.
- Talk with other operators and drivers to confirm their understanding of the ITCP (Internal Traffic Control Plan).

An Internal Traffic Control Plan coordinates the flow of equipment and workers.

What Are Basic Backing Rules?

Avoid backing unless it is absolutely necessary.

Backing rules:

- Never back up unless you are certain no workers on foot are behind — get out of cab to check if necessary.



- If no spotter is assigned, ask someone to spot for you.
- If you see a worker in the mirror, stop until you are certain the worker is in a safe position.
- Never assume a worker will walk safely behind the vehicle — don't continue backing until you know worker is safely in the clear.

What Prevention Devices Can We Use?

Alarms, cameras, radar systems, and mirrors can be used.

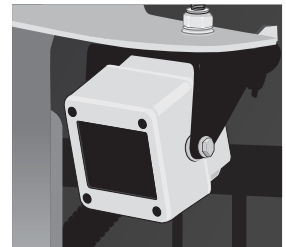
Back-up alarms:

- Make sure alarm is working.
- Alarms with broadband white noise make it easier to distinguish/locate.

Alarms were inoperable in 28% of fatalities.

Video cameras:

- Properly mounted cameras eliminate 'blind spots' in rear view mirrors.
- Best system pairs camera with sensor to tell driver to look at screen.



Radar systems:

- Warn drivers as vehicle nears an object.

Mirrors:

- Not high-tech — must be working, clean, properly adjusted.
- May still be blind spots.