



BACKING CAN BE DEADLY

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them. The two highway construction deaths below involve dump truck operators who backed over workers in their blind spot. Both of the dump trucks had working back-up alarms.

AN INSPECTOR KILLED BY A BACKING ASPHALT DUMP TRUCK

A 36-year-old construction inspector, Michael C.*, died when an asphalt dump truck backed over him. The truck was bringing asphalt to a road being paved. Michael was wearing an orange reflective vest and hardhat. The truck traveled about 770 feet in reverse before backing over Michael, who had his back to the vehicle. The truck driver said he was traveling about 5 to 10 miles per hour when the incident occurred. The driver never saw Michael.

A CONSTRUCTION FLAG PERSON DIES AFTER BEING BACKED OVER BY A TRUCK

A 26-year-old construction flag person, Jaime H.*, died when a dump truck backed over him. The dump truck was bringing dirt to the center of a six-lane street and had just entered the lane closest to the center. This lane was separated from the rest of the lanes with tubular markers. The dump truck was backing into position to dump a load of dirt onto the center. Jaime had just let the dump truck into the separated lane. He was wearing an orange reflective vest and hardhat. The dump truck's back-up alarm was working properly. The dump truck traveled only a few feet in reverse before

backing over Jaime. The driver looked into both of his tractor's side rear view mirrors and did not see Jaime, who had his back to the vehicle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Require drivers to get out and check behind their trucks before backing.
- ▶ Use a second person as a spotter when backing heavy equipment.
- ▶ Additional safety devices can help warn workers of a backing heavy vehicle. Other devices can warn drivers when someone is behind them.

For complete fatality reports of these (00CA005 & 00CA006), or other cases, and additional information on the California FACE program, please contact:

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 620-5757

www.cdph.ca.gov/face

CA Relay Service: 711 or (800) 735-2929 (hearing/speech impaired)

To obtain a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact OHB at (510) 620-5757. Allow at least 10 days to coordinate alternate format services.

* Not the victim's real name

PLEASE POST

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor
Richmond, CA 94804

FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation." The purpose of the **FACE** program is to identify hazards that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them. **FACE** is a program run by the Occupational Health Branch within the California Department of Public Health, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
Kimberly Belshe, Secretary
Health and Human Services Agency
Mark B. Horton, Director
Department of Public Health
APRIL 2001

