

## Backing Safety - Preventing Backover Incidents

There are many solutions that exist to prevent backover incidents:

- Divers can use a **spotter** to help them back up their vehicles
  - Ensure that spotters and drivers agree on hand signals before backing up (see graphics)
  - Instruct spotters to always maintain visual contact with the driver while the vehicle is backing
  - Instruct drivers to stop backing immediately if they lose sight of the spotter
  - Do not give spotters additional duties while they are acting as spotters
  - Instruct spotters not to use personal mobile phones, personal headphones, or other items which could pose a distraction
  - Provide spotters with high-visibility clothing especially during night operators
- **Video cameras** with in-vehicle display monitors can give drivers a view of what is behind them.
  - Harsh environments, such as some construction sites may require more rugged cameras
  - Viewing screens may be dash-mounted but must not block the driver's view out the windshield
- **Proximity detection devices**, such as radar and sonar, can alert drivers to objects that are behind them.
  - These systems alert the drivers with a visual and/or audio warning.
  - These systems must be positioned so that they won't detect harmless objects, such as the concrete slab of a driveway, which can interfere with the detection of an object or person behind the vehicle or mobile equipment. Also, the composition of an object can affect detection, with some materials being virtually invisible to radar.



# SAFETY TALK

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- **Tag-based systems** can inform drivers when other employees are behind the vehicle and can alert employees when they walk near a vehicle equipped to communicate with the tag worn by the employee.
  - This system consists of electromagnetic field generators and field detecting devices. One electromagnetic field-based system uses electromagnetic field generators installed on a vehicle and electronic sensing devices (a tag) worn by persons working near the vehicle.
  - Another electromagnetic field-based system uses field generators worn by persons working near the vehicle, with the sensing devices installed on the vehicle. These electromagnetic field-based systems can be programmed to warn affected workers, stop the vehicle, or both, when workers get within the predefined danger zone of the vehicle.
  
- Employers can create **internal traffic control plans**, which tell the drivers where to drive and can reduce the need to back up. The internal traffic control plan can also be used to separate employees on foot from operating equipment.
  - Internal Traffic Control Plans can significantly reduce or possibly eliminate, the need for vehicles to back up on a site.
  
- **Training** – Blind spots behind and around vehicles are not immediately obvious to employees on foot. By training employees on where those blind spots are and how to avoid being in them, employers can prevent some back over incidents.
  - Putting employees who will be working around vehicles in the driver’s seat to get a feel for where the blind spots are and what exactly, the drivers can see.
  - [NOISH - Construction Equipment Visibility Diagram Lookup](#)

## More Information:

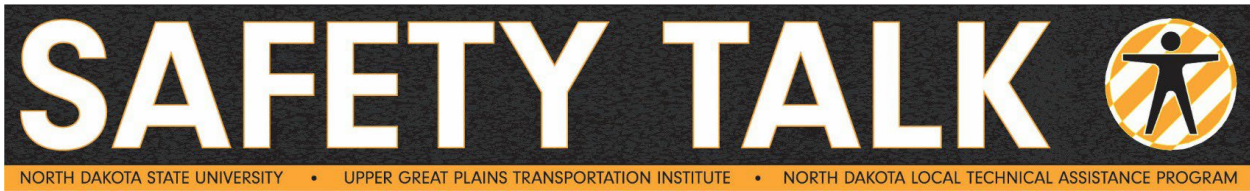
[OSHA - Preventing Backovers](#)

[CDC - Highway Work Zone Safety](#)



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## Safety Talk Sign-in Sheet Topic Backing Safety - Preventing Backover Incidents

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Supervisor/Talk Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

Signature

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