

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

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MIXER TRUCKS AND BACKING ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Ready Mixed Concrete Trucks and Backing Accidents

Results from NRMCA surveys suggest that there are more than 8,000 backing accidents that involve mixer trucks every year. That's roughly 35 backing accidents per day. As well, when looking at all drivers across the nation, nearly 1 in 4 accidents involves backing, even though the average driver only operates in reverse less than 1 mile per year. It is also hypothesized that more than 50% of the industry's preventable accidents are a result of backing. Furthermore, half of all fatalities involving construction equipment occur while the equipment is backing, often involving a truck backing up into a worker or another vehicle.



Mixer Truck Backing Accident Considerations

Ready mixed concrete mixer truck backing accidents can be prevented through regular driver training sessions. Training should be focused on recognizing opportunities to reduce backing, planning ahead, spotting hazards, walking the construction site, checking mirrors, awareness of people at a construction site and around mixer trucks, knowing when to stop, and rules of using a spotter. Particular training should be provided for any and all potential spotters to prevent improper direction and hand signals. In addition to training, collision avoidance devices can also be utilized, such as blind spot sensors, backup cameras, backup alarms and bumper markers. Producers should also regularly ensure that these devices are in good working condition.

Actions

Actions that can help prevent backing accidents:

- Think first
- When possible, don't back up, drive around
- Always use a trained spotter (and only one)
- Survey the site before backing (lower your window, at least slightly)
- Don't allow anyone between the back of a mixer and any solid object
- Don't back into traffic when possible
- Stop, get out and look when there is a question of what is behind you
- Train on backing techniques
- Use and maintain collision avoidance systems



Resources

For more information on adverse cold weather please follow the links below:

NRMCA: [Safety Series](#)

NRMCA: [Backing Accident Prevention Program](#)

NRMCA: [Mixer Truck Driver's Manual](#)

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