

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Safety & Occupational Health Office
Lessons Learned**

ACCIDENT: Struck by dump truck backing up

Date: 09 April 2002

WHAT HAPPENED: Struck while stretching a string line in an area where dump trucks were delivering hot mix asphalt-paving material. It is common practice in this line of work for employees to be working on both sides of trucks. Hearing protection was being used making it difficult to hear a co-worker shouting to warn him. Employee stood up just as truck bumper struck him.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Noise hazards from planes, trucks, and other heavy equipment (hearing protection worn).
- Spotter was directing driver on left side of truck. Could not see employee.

RESULTS: Bruised upper and lower back.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual

- **Employees need to be aware of hazards around them.**
 - 16.B GUARDING AND SAFETY DEVICES
 - b. Reverse signal alarms shall be audible and sufficiently distinct to be heard under prevailing conditions.
 - c. Alarms shall operate automatically upon commencement of backward motion. Alarms may be continuous or intermittent (not to exceed 3-second intervals) and shall operate during the entire backward movement.
 - d. Reverse signal alarms shall be in addition to requirements for signalpersons.
- **Position spotter so that the entire operation is visible and the spotter can relay commands to the vehicle operator.**
 - 16.B.02 A warning device or signalperson shall be provided where there is danger to persons from moving equipment, swinging loads, buckets, booms, etc.

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08.B.04 A signal person shall be provided when the point of operation (includes area of load travel and area immediately surrounding the load placement) is not in full view of the vehicle, machine, or equipment operator; when vehicles are backed more than 30 m (100 ft); when terrain is hazardous; or when two or more vehicles are backing in the same area.