

# Backing Heavy Equipment Safely

Many construction equipment operations require the use of bi-directional equipment that can be driven both forward and backward. Backing up heavy equipment presents a serious risk. Vehicles such as dump trucks, bulldozers, front-end loaders, and concrete trucks have large blind spots during backing. When backing is absolutely necessary, certain precautions should always be observed.

- Walk around the equipment before starting work. Be familiar with the area.
- Keep non-essential equipment and people out of the area.
- Make sure that the vehicle's mirrors are properly adjusted.
- Ensure that all windshields are kept clean.
- Be sure that back-up alarms, which are mandatory on all bi-directional equipment, are functional.
- Back-up alarms must be audible above the ambient noise levels.
- Always keep the spotter in full view during dumping operations.
- Always be familiar with the limitations of the equipment.

The idea is to be sure that everyone watches out for his or her own safety because problems develop when operators forget. The equipment operator has the responsibility of operating these vehicles safely.

The professional equipment operator should never assume that the path is clear unless it can be seen or unless a guide can verify that it is clear.

For more information, contact your local Hartford agent or your Hartford Loss Control Consultant. Visit The Hartford's Loss Control web site at <http://www.thehartford.com/corporate/losscontrol/>

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