

# DELIVER THIS MESSAGE

## No one backs up without a signaller



“On my site, no one backs up without a signaller.” Tell this to every dump-truck and concrete-delivery driver when they enter your site. They need to know that you have a zero-tolerance policy. The stakes are just too high.

When a worker is backed over by a truck or other heavy equipment, the injuries are almost always critical—if not fatal. Three of the eleven construction workers killed so far this year were hit by vehicles or heavy equipment.

It’s not necessarily carelessness or unprofessionalism that leads to these types of injuries. An operator could have years of experience and be diligent about checking the intended path of travel, but could still end up hitting a worker. Why? Blind spots.

### Blind spots & signallers

All vehicles and heavy equipment have blind spots. No amount of skill or experience can make you see through metal. That’s why you need a signaller.

A signaller is a worker who acts as a second pair of eyes for a driver or operator. Signallers can see drivers’ blind spots, so they can make sure the intended path of travel is clear. The signaller communicates this to the driver and warns of any concerns down the way.

Keep in mind that it’s not only the *other* workers that need protection. Drivers and operators often get out of their cabs to speak with someone, look at grading, or check their load. These drivers could easily end up in the blind spot of another vehicle. A signaller would keep them safe as well.

### Overhead powerlines

Overhead powerlines are another hazard you avoid by using a signaller. Again there’s the problem of blind spots. They block an operator’s view above the equipment. That’s why operators need another set of eyes.

Review your obligations for informing operators about overhead powerlines, such as

signs or other warning devices and written notification. (See Section 188 of the Construction Regulation.)

### What you can do

- ✓ Before starting a project, plan for a drive-through site. This way, you minimize backing up.
- ✓ Speak to all drivers when they enter your site. Tell them that no one backs up without a signaller.
- ✓ At site entrances, post signs requiring drivers to report to you upon arrival. That ensures you can explain the requirement for signallers.
- ✓ Post signs throughout the site, in drivers’ view, about the requirement to use a signaller.
- ✓ Remind operators that if they get out of the cab, they must wear a CSA-compliant safety vest and other appropriate personal protective equipment.
- ✓ Make the requirement for signallers clear in your Health and Safety Policy and Program. Inform all of your workers.
- ✓ Give a safety talk about backing vehicles (free from [www.csao.org](http://www.csao.org)).
- ✓ Train some of your workers to be signallers. Inform drivers and operators who they are.
- ✓ Have an orientation session with your subcontractors, explaining that they must use trained signallers and point out who is trained on your site. 🎯