Topic Summary:

Dump Trucks in the Construction Zone

Employers: Protect workers from being backed over by a dump truck! Since 1999, seven construction workers have been killed when they were backed over by dump trucks. The most recent incident was August 2006, when a laborer tacking string for an asphalt paving operation was killed by a dump truck backing up.

These deaths occurred despite the trucks being equipped with audible back-up alarms. An audible back-up alarm in a noisy construction site is not enough.

How to protect workers in the construction zone

In 2004, the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) adopted a new rule to protect construction workers from being killed by dump trucks that are backing up. See WAC 296-155-610(2)(f), Operating Dump Trucks in Reverse.

In addition to an audible back-up alarm, the rule requires dump-truck drivers working in construction zones to determine that:
- No one is currently in the backing zone; and
- It is reasonable to expect that no employees will enter the backing zone while the dump truck is backing up.

The rule also requires that if employees are in the backing zone or could reasonably be expected to enter the area, the truck be backed up only when there is:
- An observer signaling when it is safe to back up; or
- A device such as a video camera that provides the driver with a full view of the area behind the dump truck.

Please see the illustration on the reverse side.

Other resources
- Construction industry rules, Chapter 296-155 WAC,
- Other Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) rules may apply
- L&I Video Library

How can I get help from Labor and Industries?

L&I staff provide consultations, training and technical assistance at no cost to employers. Call today to schedule a free, confidential consultation. Visit Request Consultation for more information or call or visit a local L&I office and ask for the consultation supervisor.

The following diagram defines the backing zone. *Distances in feet.*

DUMP TRUCK BACKING

35.0

50.0

BLIND SPOT

OBSERVER REQUIRED