

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2020

BACKING LARGE VEHICLES SAFELY



- IN NON-EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, VEHICLE BACKING ACCIDENTS ARE COMPLETELY PREVENTABLE. THEY ARE UNFORTUNATELY VERY COMMON, EVEN WITH SPOTTERS IN PLACE.
- MAKE SURE DRIVERS GET TO KNOW A VEHICLE'S BLIND SPOTS. IN MEDIUM SIZED TRUCKS, BLIND SPOTS CAN EXTEND FROM 16 TO 160 FEET BEHIND THE TRUCK.
- WHEN USING A SPOTTER, ESTABLISH HAND SIGNALS BETWEEN THE DRIVER AND SPOTTER INSTEAD OF VERBAL ONES.
- THE DRIVER AND SPOTTER SHOULD MAINTAIN EYE CONTACT AND IF THE DRIVER CANNOT SEE THE SPOTTER THE VEHICLE SHOULD BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY.
- INSTALL BACK-UP SENSORS, WARNING CHIMES AND CAMERAS AND MAKE SURE THESE BECOME PART OF THE VEHICLE'S DAILY INSPECTION PROCESS.
- CONSIDER ORANGE CONES AROUND A PARKED TRUCK. THIS FORCES AN EMPLOYEE TO WALK AROUND THE TRUCK BEFORE LEAVING TO PICK UP THE CONES AND ALSO WARNS OTHERS OF WORK BEING DONE AROUND THIS TRUCK.
- LARGER VEHICLES SHOULD BE PARKED "DEFENSIVELY". THIS MEANS THE VEHICLE SHOULD BE PARKED IN AREAS THAT MINIMIZE THE NEED TO GO IN REVERSE. IT ALSO MEANS NOT PARKING IN SUCH A WAY THAT CROWDS NEIGHBORING VEHICLES.