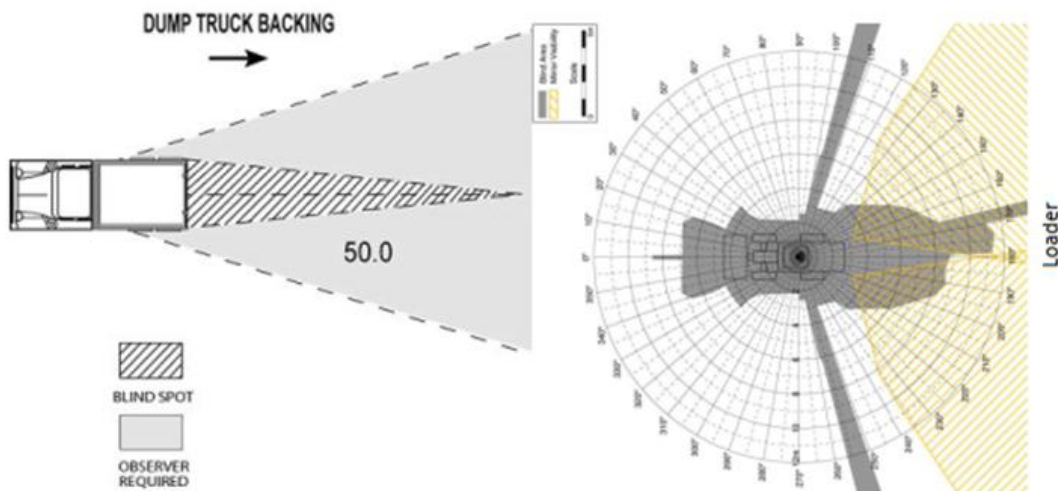


According to the National Safety Council, poor backing is attributed to 500 deaths and 15,000 injuries each year and 1 out of every 4 accidents can be blamed on poor backing techniques. **The safest way to back a vehicle is to avoid it whenever possible.**

- Before backing up, the driver and spotter should conduct a “circle of safety” and survey the backing area and surrounding hazards, such as”
  - Low overhead clearance
  - Obstructions besides the vehicle
  - Non-working reverse lights on vehicles or trailers.
- Do not assume anyone can hear your back-up alarm and will move clear of your path when backing a piece of equipment.
- When acting as a guide for the driver, do not walk backwards. Look in the direction you are walking and frequently check to see the position of the vehicle you are guiding. Always stay in view of the driver.
- The driver should roll down his/her window to better communicate with a spotter.
- Minimize distractions – **NO CELL PHONES!**
- Use your mirrors
- Back slowly
- Be familiar with your vehicles blind spots. Every vehicle and piece of equipment has different blind spots.

Take your time and **SLOW DOWN**



**At all times during the maneuver, think “GOAL”: Get Out And Look**

If you need to GOAL multiple times, you should reconsider backing at all to avoid a collision.

