

Top/Side Handler Safety in Marine Terminals

Workers in the marine cargo-handling industry are at risk of being struck by top/side handlers when working in marine terminals. Always be aware of traffic patterns and moving vehicles to avoid collisions and injuries.



Photo: Peter McDonough, LaGrangeville, NY

Ways to Avoid Traffic Incidents

All drivers:

- Always use caution when approaching a gap in a stack or bay. A top/side handler may be in operation, and could back into the travel lane. You may not see this equipment until it emerges from the stack and is ready to cross transit lanes.
- Yield the right of way to top/side handlers that are backing up and provide a wide berth to them, or stop and allow them to back across the travel lane.
- Obey all speed and traffic regulations (29 CFR 1917.44(d)) and ensure that all installed safety devices, such as horns, seat belts, back-up alarms, flashing lights, and mirrors, are operational (29 CFR 1917.43(c)(5)).

For more information:



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www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)

- Be aware of pedestrians in your area, and maintain eye or voice contact with them if possible. Keep spotters and clerks in view.
- Maintain a distance of at least 20 feet between the first two vehicles in check-in, checkout, roadability, or loading/discharging lines, and any time employees might work behind other vehicles in line (29 CFR 1917.44(i)).
- **Always be prepared to STOP!**

Top/side handler operators:

- Back up slowly and smoothly out of the stacks, and do not cut across, between, or through bays.
- Ensure that the container being handled does not strike other containers in the stack.



Top handler removing container from utility truck.

Workers on foot:

- Never step out from a stack into vehicular traffic.
- Stay out of designated traffic lanes.
- Always maintain eye and voice contact with equipment operators to ensure that they know your location.

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