

Backing Operations Workgroup Report  
Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Steve Hawkins, Co-Chair  
Chuck Stribling, Co-Chair

Attendees; See attached sign in sheet(s)

Chuck Stribling, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

Jochen Teizer, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology, addressed the workgroup and presented an overview of his research into proximity detection systems and emerging technologies. Dr. Teizer explained that his research shows a lot of promise and most of what his laboratory has developed, such as a hardhat with a warning system and software for Building Information Modeling, is not yet available in the marketplace. He advised there is no single technology available that can eliminate all vehicle struck-by incidents but technology can be a valuable aid in preventing backover incidents. His presentation was extremely informative and generated positive discussion.

Following Dr. Teizer's presentation, Meghan Smith, OSHA, unveiled OSHA's Backing webpage. She advised the webpage is now live but unfortunately, a real-time demonstration of the webpage was not feasible due to remote connectivity issues in the meeting room. Nevertheless, Ms. Smith provided a brief overview of the primary sections of the webpage. She advised it addresses backovers in construction and general industry and includes links to FACE reports, a solutions page, a resources page, a regulations page, and a standards interpretations page. The chair acknowledged that ACCSH made the recommendation to OSHA only two (2) meetings ago to develop a webpage devoted to backing and thanked Ms. Smith and Mr. Paul Bolon, OSHA, for accomplishing the task in a very timely manner.

Ms. Smith presented 2011 data gathered from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on fatalities from workers being struck by a vehicle or mobile equipment that was backing. This is the first time BLS has gathered the data specific to backing fatalities. In 2011, there were seventy-nine (79) fatalities reported for all sectors. The data is presented in a variety of ways, including state of incident, birthplace, employee status, gender, month of incident, day of week, time of incident, etc.

No motions were made and the workgroup adjourned at 3:10 p.m.