

Preventing Injuries to Retail Workers:



How to protect retail workers from being struck by motor vehicles

**HAZARD
ALERT!**

Two workers were severely injured recently when they were struck by motor vehicles:

Case 1: A clerk was retrieving shopping carts from a parking aisle when she was struck by a 4x4 pickup truck. The truck drove completely over the victim pinning her under the front axle. Rescue workers had to use an airbag to jack up the truck to free the victim. She had 10 years of experience on the job and was wearing a bright yellow high visibility raincoat provided by the employer with the hood up. A security video appears to show that the driver turned without seeing the clerk.

Case 2: An associate at a grocery store fuel center was cleaning out spill buckets when he was struck by an SUV. He suffered a broken pelvis and tailbone which required surgery. The victim was not wearing a high visibility vest. Following the incident, the victim reported that associates did not receive instructions about how to avoid being struck by motor vehicles, that the employer seldom enforced wearing vests at the fuel center, and that there had been numerous near-misses with motor vehicles previously.

**From 2010-2013,
68 retail workers
were injured when
they were struck
by motor vehicles**

40% of these injured workers were between the ages of 16-24

Workers were most frequently struck by motor vehicles at:

- Supermarkets and grocery stores – 19%
- Warehouse clubs and supercenters – 13%
- Gasoline stations – 12%



What can employers do to keep workers safe?

Employers must develop a formal, written accident prevention program (APP). See WAC 296-800-14005. According to the APP, employers must provide training on:

- What workers need to know to perform their initial job assignments safely
- Identification of specific hazards
- How to report unsafe conditions and practices
- The use and care of required personal protective equipment (PPE)

Employers should train and ensure workers:

Do

- ✓ Look and wait until there are no oncoming or backing vehicles before proceeding
- ✓ Recognize and avoid vehicle blind spots
- ✓ Be especially careful around large vehicles like SUVs or large trucks
- ✓ Stay out of the path of vehicles when they are starting to move, especially when backing up
- ✓ Always wear high visibility clothing
- ✓ Work in pairs when retrieving carts where one person is a spotter and one pushes carts

Don't

- ⊗ Bend down near or turn away from moving vehicles
- ⊗ Attempt to stop a moving vehicle fleeing the scene of a crime
- ⊗ Walk backwards when retrieving carts or when around vehicles
- ⊗ Position yourself between moving vehicles and objects like carts, walls, or other vehicles
- ⊗ Wash vehicles before you are certain they are stopped and in neutral
- ⊗ Service vehicles before you are certain they are stopped and in park

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