



# Potentially how many fatalities, injuries and property damage could be avoid annually if commercial semi-trucks and trailers were required to have backup warning beepers and rearview cameras?

Requiring commercial semi-trucks and trailers to have backup warning beepers and rearview cameras could significantly reduce annual fatalities, injuries, and property damage caused by backing-up accidents.

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), on average, there are about 210 fatalities and 15,000 injuries per year in the U.S. from backover crashes, a significant portion of which involve larger vehicles like trucks and commercial vehicles. Children under 5 and adults over 70 are especially at risk, but people of all ages can be victims. <sup>[1]</sup>
- Backup cameras have been shown to reduce reversing accidents by approximately 17% compared to vehicles without this technology, according to data from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). <sup>[2]</sup>
- Backup alarms (warning beepers) and rear-vision systems both help to eliminate blind spots and alert pedestrians and other drivers to reversing vehicles, preventing injuries and fatalities. <sup>[3] [4]</sup>

Based on these statistics and studies:

- If all commercial semi-trucks and trailers were equipped with both backup cameras and warning beepers, it's plausible that up to 36 fatalities (17% of 210) and over 2,500 injuries (17% of 15,000) could be prevented annually, just from backing accidents.
- Property damage could also decrease, given that backing up is the most common cause of truck collisions and damage, but precise annual figures for this are less clear.

While these numbers are based on the general effect of rear-visibility technology and may not account for every specific situation, available research strongly supports that mandating backup beepers and rearview cameras on all commercial semi-trucks and trailers would prevent dozens of deaths, thousands of injuries, and a significant amount of property damage every year. <sup>[4] [3] [2] [1]</sup>



1. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/nhtsa-announces-final-rule-requiring-rear-visibility-technology>.

2. <https://www.sorokalegal.com/blog/are-back-up-cameras-reducing-truck-accident-risks/>
3. <https://aeasseincludes.assp.org/professionalsafety/pastissues/048/01/035612an.pdf>
4. <https://www.tayloring.com/blog/accidents-caused-by-trucks-backing-up/>