

Reducing the Potential for Backing Collisions

Backing collisions are almost always preventable. One of the best ways to eliminate the potential for backing accidents is to not back up. It seems like an oversimplification of the problem, but it is true. If you do not use reverse, you cannot have a backing accident. When parking, look for spots you do not have to back into or out. Look for spots you can drive through. Another way to prevent a backing collision is to use a spotter to assist you when backing. Most backing accidents tend to involve minor property damage. However, the potential for bodily injury to others is just as great as it is when vehicles travel in a forward direction. The National Safety Council reports that one out of every four commercial vehicle collisions involves backing. The results of these collisions include 500 deaths and 1,500 injuries per year. Again, almost all of these collisions are preventable.

THINGS TO AVOID WHEN BACKING:

- Avoid backing at a high rate of speed
- Avoid backing out into traffic
- Avoid backing from the passenger side of the vehicle
- Avoid backing around corners

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN BACKING:

- The best planning in the world will not eliminate all backing situations, so keep your backing skills sharp
- Plan on people (coworkers, pedestrians and cyclists) entering your backing path
- Watch for other vehicles, especially other vehicles that are also backing
- Watch for fixed objects such as fences, street lamps, trash containers, overhead branches, signs, and overhangs
- Watch for low clearance objects such as curbs, and ornate rocks

A MUST DO CHECK BEFORE BACKING:

If you are by yourself and do not have a spotter, you must get out and check the area before backing. You should strongly consider getting out several times during the backing process to spot your progress and verify the conditions behind your vehicle. This walk around the vehicle check is good method for backing reducing collisions.

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