

F or Y our D riving



Almost All Backing Accidents are Preventable

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, approximately 25% of all large truck accidents are backing related. Backing a straight truck and tractor trailer are somewhat similar, but there are some differences. When backing a straight truck, turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the vehicle to go. When backing a trailer, turn the steering wheel in the opposite direction. Once the trailer starts to turn, you must turn the wheel the other way to follow the trailer.

Whenever you back with a trailer try to position your vehicle so you can back in a straight line. If you have to back on a curved path, back to the driver's side so you can see, and back slowly so you can make corrections before you get too far off course.

Practicing these simple tips will help to make your job easier:

- Frequently check your mirrors for trailer drifting.
- Back up with your window rolled down, so you will hear what is going on around you.
- Periodically sound your horn to alert others.
- Correct trailer drift immediately.
- As soon as you see the trailer getting off the proper path, correct it by turning the wheel in the direction of the drift.
- Pull forward when needed to reposition your vehicle.
- Use a guide person whenever possible. Before you begin backing, work out a set of hand signals that you both understand, and agree on a signal for **STOP**.
- If a guide person is unavailable, get out and look.

According to accident preventability guidelines, nearly all backing accidents are preventable. A driver is not relieved of his responsibility to back safely when a guide person is involved in the maneuver. A guide person cannot control the movement of the vehicle; therefore a driver must check all clearances for himself.

Remember Accidents do not Happen they are Caused!

Produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

www.isri.org

www.isrisafety.org

Send comments and questions to:

isrisafety@isri.org

June 5, 2012