



Backing Accidents Account for 30% of All Accidents

Millions of miles are driven each year and most of these miles are driven going forward. Although the majority of accidents occur while the vehicles are going forward, approximately 30 percent of all accidents occur when vehicles are moving in reverse. In most cases, if not all, backing accidents are preventable. Practicing these simple tips may help you to avoid a backing related accident:

General Rules:

1. If you can avoid backing, don't do it!
2. Never be in a hurry when backing.
3. If there is no spotter available:
 - a. Reconsider backing up. Is it really necessary?
 - b. Make a reasonable attempt to get someone to act as a spotter.
 - c. If a spotter cannot be obtained, **GET OUT AND LOOK.**
 - d. Sound your horn periodically while backing.
 - e. Periodically **GET OUT AND LOOK** to recheck your backward path of travel.

Driver Responsibilities Assisted by Spotter:

1. Become familiar with the spotter's hand signals.
2. Make visual and verbal contact with the spotter. If you cannot see or hear the spotter, **DO NOT BACK UP.**
3. Bring the unit to a complete stop, roll down your window, and turn on your hazard lights.
4. Establish and continue eye contact with the spotter by using the left side view mirror as a visual aid.
5. Periodically sound the horn while backing.

Spotter Responsibilities:

1. Survey the backing area, and check for any overhead objects.
2. Communicate any observed hazards to the driver.
3. Familiarize hand signals with the driver before any backing maneuvers.
4. Establish visual and verbal contact with the driver and continue eye to eye contact at all times.
5. Place yourself eight to ten feet to the left rear of the vehicle.
6. **STOP** the driver if any hazards are observed or if you are uncertain of the direction that the driver is maneuvering.

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Comments or Questions

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