



Tips to prevent backing accidents

Driving a company vehicle includes risk — from the possible cost of property damage to the potential for lawsuits. And those risks multiply when you need to back up a vehicle. Use these tips to prevent backing accidents.

Know your blind spots

The larger the vehicle, the larger the blind spot. Ask an employee to stand directly behind a parked vehicle with a safety cone. Have him or her walk straight back from the center of the vehicle until visible in the mirror to the driver. Measure the distance and remember this whenever backing is unavoidable.

Walk around the entire vehicle

Observe the proximity of structures, other cars, pedestrians, or overhanging wires. Map it out in your head before you get behind the wheel.

Avoid backups when possible

In a parking lot, pull through to the space ahead of you; don't leave room for someone to park in front of your vehicle. If possible, park in the street rather than a driveway. In a parking lot, park towards the back of the lot to avoid other vehicles parking too close.

Don't park in alleys you can't drive through

Backing out of an alley into a busy street is dangerous for everyone. If you must park in the alley, back in (if local regulations allow it).

Use a spotter for difficult situations

Communicate with hand signals that the driver and spotter understand. This is important for situations where children are present, such as schools, play areas, and residential jobsites. Children are unpredictable and easily hidden in blind spots.

Get proper rest

Fatigue and lack of rest are major contributors to fleet accidents. Make sure drivers are well rested and alert when driving.

Use technology with caution

Back-up alarms, sonar, and mini cameras help warn bystanders and drivers of objects or people in the driver's reverse path, but these tools can malfunction or fail if ignored by drivers and pedestrians.