

BACKING POLICY

Practically all backing collisions are preventable. A driver is not relieved of responsibility to back safely when a signaler is involved in the maneuver. A signaler cannot control the movement of the vehicle; therefore, a driver must verify all clearances.

Drivers must believe the concept; "All backing collisions are preventable." Drivers can control parking and backing as effectively as other vehicle maneuvers.

Parking Habits

A drivers' **first option** should be to select parking locations where backing will NOT be necessary when leaving the area. If the vehicle can be driven forward when leaving, a backing accident could be prevented.

If the first option is not possible, drivers' **second option** should be to back the vehicle into the selected parking location upon arrival. This allows drivers to park/back the vehicle while a clear view of the entire area exists and before any conditions can change.

Unavoidable Backing Situations

Backing is unavoidable in certain environments. In these situations, drivers should ask for assistance (if available) and back immediately, slowly and with extreme care, while checking all mirrors. Ground guides and drivers should agree on what hand signals to use; verbal instructions may not be heard or understood.

Procedures

- Upon arrival, evaluate the area and plan parking and vehicle maneuvers that will avoid backing.
- When arriving at the destination, park where backing will be unnecessary when leaving.
- If back up is necessary to enter a parking location, back in upon arrival before conditions can change.
- If backing is necessary (and can be conducted safely) exit the vehicle and check obstacles to the rear that may be hidden by blind spots in mirrors.
- If help is available, use a ground guide to assist backing. Provide ground guide with adequate instructions and discuss any special concerns for safely backing the vehicle.

- When backing a vehicle, do so slowly and with extreme care, using all mirrors.
- If a turn is required while backing, position the vehicle so it can be backed to the left whenever possible. This provides a clearer field of view in the direction of travel.
- Regardless of how a vehicle is parked, the driver should always perform a "circle check" before leaving the area. Walk completely around the vehicle looking for hazards. Once the check is completed, pull out forward or back up immediately before conditions can change.

The effectiveness of any backing collisions prevention program depends primarily on the drivers' ability to maintain a professional attitude toward parking and backing habits.

Vehicles should be equipped with a reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level.



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(05/2014)