

Safe Backing Procedures

Top Fleet

Driver Assessment



There are many obvious reasons for Drivers to always follow Safe Backing Procedures.

This program will help confirm drivers understand the importance of exercising Safe Backing Procedures at all times. As many backing accidents are caused by drivers rushing to complete the task, remaining calm and exercising caution are the two best ways to complete a backing maneuver safely.



Backing Unsafely Can Kill and Does!

According to the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (NHTSA), there are at least 500,000 backing accidents every year in the U.S. Of those half million accidents, 15,000 include injuries and approximately 210 are fatal.



Preventing backing accidents that cause injuries, death and property damage is easy, provided all safe backing procedures are followed.

It only takes a few extra seconds to avoid the tragedy of a backing accident.

Teams and Passengers

Be aware of your Co-Driver's or passengers location at all times.

If you are unsure where your Co-Driver or passengers are,

DO NOT MOVE THE VEHICLE!



Always be aware of other drivers or service technicians who may be working in your area as well. When doing any type of backing training with an Instructor, always maintain a visual contact with your instructor and be prepared to stop immediately if you lose site of them at any time!

Plan ahead before backing

If you must back your vehicle, try to avoid blindside backing whenever possible, even if you have to go around the block to re-approach.

If a Blindside approach is your only option, use extreme caution and get out and look as often as you need to!



When parking, park defensively – choose a space that you do not have to back out of, and has minimal pedestrian or vehicle traffic.

Never set up illegally or in a way that may force you to back onto any roadway.

When setting up, minimize the distance you must travel in reverse.

Get Out And Look

Always get out and look before backing. Check the terrain, clearances, loading Dock areas, Hazards on the ground (such as broken dolly pads) and watch for People.

Open and secure your doors.

Check again for pedestrians and vehicles and assume they are not aware of you.

Anticipate their movements.

If at any time you are unsure if it is safe to continue, STOP, get out and look again!



Begin Backing

After you have checked to ensure your backing area is clear, return to your vehicle, open your windows, and engage your four way hazard lights. Honk your horn to warn others of your backing intentions. Begin backing repeatedly checking both mirrors.



Use idling speed only, and do not accelerate. Be prepared to stop if a door latch comes loose and swings out, or if a person or vehicle appears (or disappears) behind you.



Before getting out, always ensure the Tractor Parking Brake Control Valve is pulled out and the parking brakes are applied. Confirm the vehicle is secured from moving before getting out to check on your backing position.

Failure to do so may cause your vehicle to move unexpectedly causing damage, injuries or even death.

When using a Spotter

Remember that the driver is always the one responsible to ensure a safe backing maneuver, even when using a Spotter.

Having a spotter assist the driver does not relieve the driver of their backing responsibilities.

Follow all safe backing procedures.

Verify what hand signals the spotter will be giving you to avoid confusion.

If you are ever unsure what signals your Spotter is giving you, get out and look yourself.

If you should lose sight of your spotter STOP!

Do not continue until visual contact has been reestablished.



Spotter Signals



Back,
turn right



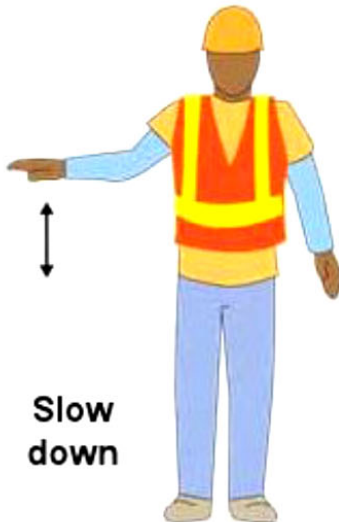
Back,
turn left



Back
up



Distance
left to back



Slow
down



Stop



Move
forward

Once backed in, apply parking brakes to secure the vehicle. Before any loading or unloading, properly position wheel blocks!



Improper Wheel Blocking



Proper Wheel Blocking

Remember: safe backing begins and ends
with the Professional Drive!

Always exercise extreme caution to safely complete your Safe Backing Procedures!

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The End

