



Backing

ALERT= SAFETY

Backing prevention starts with the driver ensuring a clear path before beginning to back.

Motor vehicle crashes that occur while backing continue to be one of the top five causes of loss. This is actually one of the easiest types of crashes to prevent, simply by properly ensuring your path is clear.

A driver should not back unless absolutely necessary. Driver's back from habit, rather than need. When a driver must back into a space or dock, the driver must ensure the area is clear. During backing, do not allow yourself to be distracted.

The following steps should be taken when attempting to back:

- ✓ Get out and look. Always get out and walk around the vehicle to inspect your intended path. This includes clearance above the tractor and trailer.
- ✓ Turn on four-way flashers.
- ✓ Sound horn two or three times before beginning to back.
- ✓ Begin backing slowly. Idle back do not accelerate.
- ✓ Check both mirrors and the front of the tractor constantly.

Frequently check behind the vehicle. If needed, get out and check area more than once. Use your mirrors as aids only, remember that they only give you a limited site area of the surroundings. Check for potential hazards that may be in your path (parked vehicles, low wires or overhangs, debris and people). Do not rely on horns to keep the area behind you clear.

Plan ahead to position your vehicle so you can back on the driver's side. You may have to go around the block to avoid blindside backing. This will allow a better view of what you are doing. Remember blindside back only as a last resort.

When in doubt with dock alignment or clearance, get out and look. If the trailer gets out of position, pull forward and start over.

Avoid lengthy backing. Giving too much room invites others to pull behind you. If you are unsure of your surroundings while you are backing, STOP IMMEDIATELY and visually check the area before proceeding.

A guide can be helpful when you blindside back. Make sure the guide is positioned on the side at the rear of the vehicle, where they can be clearly seen. The guide should use proper hand signals, and not rely on his or her voice as it may be drowned out by other noises. Do not rely completely on your guide. Even though a helper is used, the driver is ALWAYS responsible for ensuring safe maneuvers.

If you miss your destination, do not back up. Instead, go around and try it again.

Review of General Backing Rules:

- ✓ Start in the proper position. Position the vehicle before beginning to back.
- ✓ Back slowly. Use the lowest reverse gear. Be patient. Do not accelerate.
- ✓ Constantly check behind the vehicle. Use both mirrors and do not become focused on one mirror.
- ✓ Start over when necessary. If the trailer gets out of position, pull forward and start over.

Check first and then proceed.