

# Safety on the Job: Vehicle Backing

## Synopsis

Unsafe backing causes one out of every four commercial vehicle accidents. Safety on the Job: Vehicle Backing presents specific situations and procedures to assure safety in backing up.

Drivers of commercial and utility vehicles often find themselves in situations when they have several choices about backing up. The program demonstrates safe and unsafe ways of backing into and out of alleys, backing around an uninspected corner, and of pulling up, not backing into, a job site. Viewers will learn proper backing procedures for special situations, such as backing around a blind corner or on a downhill street.

The driver is responsible for conscientious maintenance of the vehicle, making sure the backup path is free of hazards, and of warning people, in person, of an intention to back up. Drivers must always be prepared for the unexpected, must always drive defensively, and must never take risks.

## Questions to ask before viewing

1. What can the consequences be of unsafe backing?
2. How can backup accidents happen? Name some of the causes.
3. Have you been involved in any backup accident? Whose fault was it?
4. Why do you think backup accidents happen? How can they be avoided?
5. Describe a blind spot or blind area of a vehicle.

## Questions to ask after viewing

1. What is the basic rule of backing up safely? (Avoid backing up whenever possible.)
2. Who is ultimately responsible for any backup accident? (The driver.)
3. What are the safety considerations of backing around a corner? (Don't ever back into an uninspected corner alone.)
4. What does a pretrip safety checklist consist of? (The checklist includes: clean mirrors and windows; adjust mirrors; check brakes, forward and reverse; check backup alarm and lights; check horn; check any other special backup device, such as a video camera, for cleanliness and function.)
5. Why should the driver check for hazards on the backup path? (Because there could be ground hazards or not enough clearance.)
6. When and why should a driver use a backup guide? (Whenever possible because a backup guide can see the blind spots and control traffic.)

7. How do backing rules apply to passenger cars? (Exactly the same as the rules for commercial trucks.)
8. Describe why backing up while talking on the telephone is dangerous. (It can be distracting.)
9. Describe the functions of mirrors on your vehicle pertaining to backing up. (Drivers should always use mirrors to see behind and around the vehicle, but shouldn't rely on them solely because even with mirrors there is always a blind spot.)
10. What is something pedestrians should keep in mind when they are near a truck or large vehicle? (If you can't see the driver's mirrors, the driver can't see you.)
11. Why should a driver warn people behind his/her vehicle in person before backing up? (So that people can stay out of the way or move objects in the vehicle's path.)
12. Describe the rules of backing up on a downhill street, on an uphill street, at a blind corner. (Don't do it; take the time to go around and pull in instead.)
13. Even after checking your path, why should you always back up defensively? (Because the blind spot behind the vehicle leaves a margin for accidents.)
14. How does safe backing affect productivity? (Even though making safe choices can sometimes cost a few minutes, fewer accidents can mean more vehicles doing their jobs and less money spent on repairs.)

**Length**

15 Minutes

**Audience level**

Adult

**Subject area**

Safety Education

**Catalog number**

8840SG

Discussion Guide

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## Safety on the Job: Vehicle Backing

**Objectives**

- To inform viewers that unsafe vehicle backing is a frequent cause of accidents.
- To make drivers aware of the correct (safe) and incorrect (unsafe) choices they may have to make when backing up their vehicles.
- To explain the importance of properly maintaining the vehicle to assure maximum safety in backing.
- To stress the need to check for hazards on the backup path before backing.
- To show common backing-up situations and their correct (safe) executions.



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