



# BACKING

## BACKING CHALLENGES

The cost of a “Property Damage Crash” (a typical backing accident is presently estimated at an average of \$7,400 per event. Backing is a leading cause of serious accidents in the Forestry Transportation Industry. The fact that many in the forestry industry work in the early morning and late afternoon make this an extremely important issue. One out of every four accidents involve backing. Backing accidents cause 500 deaths and 15,000 injuries per year. There are over 500,000 backing accidents in the US every year. What are the challenges driver’s face driving backwards vs. forward? Position – Driver’s position is facing forward while the vehicle is moving backwards.

Blind Spots - Forestry transportation vehicles create large blind spots. Views – Mirrors and backing cameras are great but they distort views and space.

## WHAT CAUSES BACKING ACCIDENTS

Mirrors – Lack of mirrors, inadequately designed mirrors (size, shape, configuration) improperly adjusted mirrors (minimize blind spots) Blind spots – Items blocking your vision (signs, shrubs, other vehicles) The vehicle or trailer you are driving can block the area. Distractions- Bystanders, traffic, spotter Low visibility – weather, night, dark garages Barriers – Physical barriers behind the vehicle and physical barriers which move behind the vehicle while you are backing.

## HOW TO PREVENT BACKING ACCIDENTS

Do you believe backing accidents are avoidable and preventable? The number one way to prevent backing accidents is to eliminate or minimize all backing maneuvers. Planning – planning routes that prevent backing.

Avoid Backing into roadways- By not backing up into traffic streams when it can be avoided. Getting Out of the Cab - By getting out of the cab and checking the area. Using backing alarms or your Horn – By sounding the horn while backing. Avoid Blind Side Backing – By not backing using a blind side when a sight side approach could have been made.

## BACKING PROCEDURES

Basic Backing Procedures – Get out and look at the space you wish to back into. Use a spotter to watch for obstructions if backing is unavoidable. Visually inspect your line of travel to ensure it is clear before beginning the maneuver. Turn your flashers on, sound your horn twice, and use the radio to communicate with anyone in the area.

## BACKING SAFETY TIPS

Get to know your vehicle’s blind spots. Think in advance: Don’t back when you do not have to. Park defensively, choose an easy-exit parking space and perform a walk-around. Know the clearances (overhead hazards). Remember every backing situation is new and different. Use a spotter. After finishing your walk around, back your vehicle because the situations can change.

## BACKING SAFETY REMINDERS

Ensure mirrors are clean and adjusted. Tap the horn twice prior to backing to notify others. Roll down the driver side window. Shut off the radio. Back as little as possible. Back at a creep and keep your foot covering the brake. Back to the driver’s side of the vehicle. If you are using a spotter, ensure they are always visible and stop if they are not. Trucks can only back into the place of loading after receiving the appropriate signal from the loader or any authorized person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Safe Trucking’s mission is to reduce accidents through enhanced driver training and effective fleet management and to recruit new, safety-focused drivers to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.