##### Did You Know?

The National Safety Council (NSC) estimates that 25% of all accidents happen while a vehicle is backing up. It is estimated that 210 people die every year in vehicle backing accidents.

##### Preventing Backing Accidents:

Planning in advance can help minimize the likelihood of an accident while backing:

* Position your vehicle so that it is not necessary to back up.
* When parking try to find a slot without neighboring cars.
* If possible, back into a parking space.
* If possible, back up to the left where objects on the driver’s side can be seen.
* When possible, use another person as a spotter to help while backing up.
* Never allow the spotter to walk backwards while giving instructions.
* Conduct a walk-around of the vehicle to identify hazards.
* Use both mirrors and check over shoulders when backing up.

Know your vehicle clearances (front, back, sides, and below) and be mindful of blind spots.

Factors in backing collisions:

* Moving backwards without first looking to ensure the area behind the vehicle is clear.
* No side mirrors, incorrect shape and size, or improperly mounted.
* Obstructed blind spots.
* Turning while backing out.
* Distractions caused by pedestrians, traffic, or improper signaling by spotter.
* Physical barriers that move behind the vehicle prior to or during backing.

Practical tips to consider:

* If equipped, use a rear window defogger to melt ice and keep the rear windshield clear.
* Perform a vehicle walk-around if practical.
* Look overhead for safe clearance.
* Avoid backing and turning simultaneously.
* Check side mirrors for cleanliness and adjustment.
* Start moving slowly initially to allow vehicles/pedestrians to move out of the way.
* Stop before loading dock contact and get out to check the final distance.
* Backup slowly in order to stop quickly, if needed.

The information in this document was obtained from sources which, to the best of the writer’s knowledge, are authentic and reliable. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. makes no guarantee of results and assumes no liability in connection with either the information or recommendations obtained in this document. Moreover, it cannot be assumed that every acceptable procedure is included in this document or that abnormal or unusual circumstances may not warrant or require further or additional procedures.