

Backing Collisions are Preventable

Over the last decade ending 12/31/2017, over 700 collisions have been reported where a member driven vehicle was backed into another vehicle, with total incurred costs close to \$1.3 million. The total number and costs of this type of collision are much higher when you take into account collisions involving damage to member and nonmember



property. Backing collisions are almost 100% preventable, meaning the driver could have done something reasonable to prevent it. The following steps can be taken to greatly reduce the frequency and severity of backing collisions:

1. Avoid backing whenever and wherever possible. Look for a pull-through or parallel parking space.
2. If backing is necessary, back slowly at creep speed.
3. Turn off the radio and open your window so that you can hear any warnings while backing.
4. Tap your horn to warn others before you start to back. If your vehicle is equipped with a back-up alarm or camera, ensure it is working prior to backing. Never rely solely on a back-up alarm or camera.
5. Stay focused, don't let yourself be distracted.
6. Back the shortest possible distance.

7. When you drive into an area where backing is necessary, scan the area for hazards, i.e. pedestrians, poles, overhangs, trees, wires, other vehicles, etc. Begin backing immediately, once you have determined it is safe to do so. Don't wait, as the conditions can change.
8. Back to the driver's side, where you have better visibility looking out the driver's side window.
9. Keep your head moving; glancing in both side view mirrors, the rearview mirror (if the vehicle is so equipped) and over both shoulders.
10. If available, use a guide to assist you in backing. Keep the guide person in view in your driver's side mirror (if possible) at all times. Stop the vehicle immediately if you lose sight of the guide. Agree on hand signals with your guide before backing. Even with a guide, remember you are responsible for the movement of your vehicle.
11. When in doubt, STOP, secure your vehicle by turning off the engine, placing the transmission in gear or park, setting the parking brake, and then get out and look.

