



Mesquite Independent School District Backing Accident Prevention Policy

REDUCING EXPOSURE

In preventing backing accidents, one cannot get ahead by backing up. The key to prevention is reducing exposure.

Drivers must believe the concept "All backing accidents are preventable." Drivers can control parking and backing as effectively as other vehicle maneuvers.

PARKING HABITS

Drivers' first option should be to select parking locations where backing will NOT be necessary when leaving the job site. If the vehicle can be driven forward when leaving, a backing accident may be prevented.

If the first option is not possible, drivers' second option should be to back the vehicle into the selected parking location UPON ARRIVAL. This allows drivers to park/back the vehicle while a clear view of the entire area exists and before any conditions can change.

UNAVOIDABLE BACKING SITUATIONS

Backing is unavoidable in certain environments. In these situations, drivers should ask for assistance (if available) and back immediately, though slowly and with extreme care, while checking all mirrors. Ground guides and drivers should agree on what hand signals to use; verbal instructions may not be heard or understood.

PARKING AND BACKING PROCEDURES

To increase the level of employee compliance, supervisors must emphasize the importance of safety procedures and thoroughly review them with drivers. Simply stating that these procedures are policy will not ensure compliance; supervisors must audit employees' on-the-job backing and parking habits.

To maintain program credibility, supervisors must set the example. Consistent reinforcement of the planned parking procedures is essential to success. **When an improperly parked vehicle is observed, a supervisor should stop and require the employee to reposition the vehicle.** These work site corrections should be implemented in a positive manner.

When incorporating parking and backing techniques into an accident prevention program, driver support is essential.

PROCEDURES

- A. Upon arrival, evaluate the area and plan parking and vehicle maneuvers that will avoid backing.
- B. When arriving at a work site, park where backing will be unnecessary when leaving.
- C. If backing is necessary to enter a parking location, back in upon arrival before conditions can change.
- D. If one parks where backing is unavoidable when leaving, place **a safety cone behind the vehicle to allow adequate backing space.**
- E. If backing is necessary (and can be conducted safely) exit the vehicle and check obstacles to the rear that may be hidden by blind spots in mirrors.
- F. If help is available, use a ground guide to assist backing. Provide ground guide with adequate instructions and discuss any special concerns for safely backing the vehicle.
- G. When backing a vehicle, do so slowly and with extreme care, using all mirrors.
- H. **If a turn is required while backing, position the vehicle so it can be backed to the left whenever possible.** This provides a clearer field of view in the direction of travel.

Regardless of how a vehicle is parked, the driver should always perform a "circle check" before leaving the work site. Walk completely around the vehicle looking for hazards. Once the check is completed, pull out forward or back up immediately before conditions can change.

The effectiveness of any backing accident prevention program depends primarily on drivers' ability to maintain a professional attitude toward parking and backing habits.

It is not enough that employees perform work safely; they must also arrive and leave the job safely.