

Still Backing? Reverse That Course!

The consequences of backing are too serious to risk. Don't put yourself into an unnecessary backing situation!

As professional drivers, employees should be aware that all backing accidents are preventable. Statistics show that hitting an object while backing is the primary cause of property damage accidents. When the object is a coworker, customer, child or any other person, a bad situation can rapidly become a tragedy.

Use the following techniques to minimize the potential for backing accidents. Making these practices into *habits* can greatly reduce your chances of having a serious backing accident.

- ***Plan ahead*** and avoid backing whenever possible. Always try to park vehicles so they will not have to be backed at a later time. If backing will be necessary, and it is practical, back the vehicle before leaving it.
- If you have to back, ***do a walk-around***: check the rear of the vehicle and anticipate whether another vehicle or pedestrian could reach the rear of the vehicle while it is backing. The path the vehicle will take while backing must be clear of obstacles.
- ***Keep a clear view***. Never back a vehicle when mirrors or the rear window are covered with frost, snow or other substances that keep you from fully viewing the path the vehicle will take while backing.
- Once behind the wheel, ***blow the horn*** twice to warn of your intentions and visually check all mirrors to the rear once again before slowly backing.

Accidents resulting from unsafe backing can and must be prevented. As professional drivers you must do everything you can to eliminate these types of accidents. Your safety, the public's safety and the Postal Service's reputation depend on it.

DRIVE LIKE A PRO AND DEVELOP HABITS THAT PREVENT BACKING ACCIDENTS!