

ALLIANZ GLOBAL CORPORATE & SPECIALTY®

VEHICLE BACKING



- Other parked vehicles
- Children
- Potholes/tire hazards
- Overhead wires
- Low hanging trees
- Trash cans/dumpsters

Where possible, it is advised that the driver use a spotter to assist when performing the backing maneuver. Driver and spotter should both have an understanding of the movements to be performed and the steps they will take to be successful. The spotter may be able to temporarily control traffic and provide guidance as necessary. A series of hand signals understood by both driver and spotter may be most effective in communicating. If the driver must back up without a spotter, he/she should perform the maneuver as quickly as possible after performing the walk-around inspection of the area. This will reduce the possibility of conditions changing behind the vehicle while backing.

Drivers may encounter unique circumstances during their travels, such as parking in an alley or on a dead end. If conditions do not allow for driving through, or there is no room to turn around, the driver should back into the alley if possible. This will let the driver pull forward into traffic upon exiting.

It is essential that companies develop and support training programs for all drivers. The training should teach and review backing techniques, use of spotters, hand signals and dangers to avoid among other topics. Points of emphasis during the training may include the following:

- Back only when necessary
- Back the shortest distance possible
- Back in a straight line if possible
- Back as slowly as possible
- Back sight side first
- Back blind side as a last resort
- Check mirrors every 3-5 seconds
- Check all clearances (front, rear, right/left side, ground, overhead)

Drivers must be able to practice these maneuvers in safe surroundings to become more comfortable when presented with these challenges while on the road.

Companies can take additional steps as well. Technology advancements have helped to minimize some exposures. Installing front and rear facing cameras have helped to eliminate blind spots around the vehicle. Back up alarms may warn pedestrians or other drivers in the immediate area of the actions taking place.

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