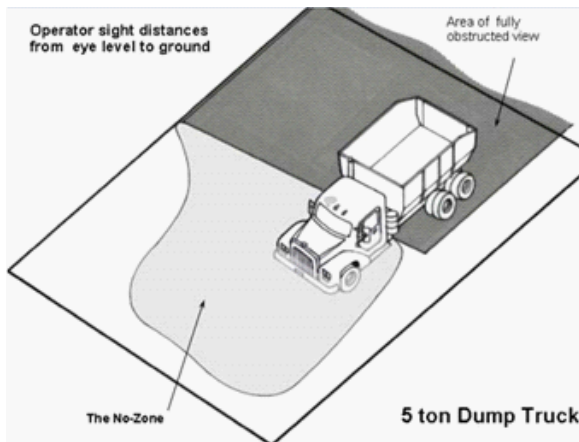


AUGUST *Safety Talk*

Topic: Backing Up Safely

Backing up your vehicle is one of the most dangerous driving activities, whether you are driving a car, a tandem truck or a piece of heavy equipment.

Backing up accidents are avoidable!



Make sure you can see well

Double check and reposition mirrors before you start the vehicle. You should be able to see most of the adjacent lane, and not the side of your vehicle. A common mistake is to have the mirror positioned too far in.

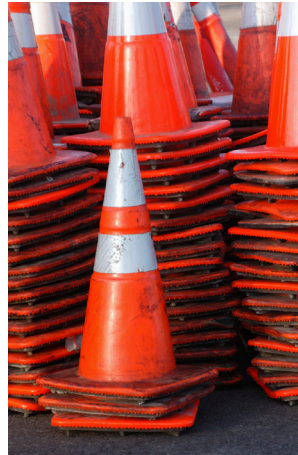
Keep windows clean for better visibility.

Remove any obstacles blocking your sight within the vehicle, and keep the rear window clear.

Walk around

Before you start the vehicle, do a walk all the way around the vehicle. Once you ensure the area is clear, back up as soon as possible – if you are delayed, do another walk around.

Some organizations may have implemented the procedure of placing traffic cones around the vehicle every time you park. This ensures you do a walk around before starting the vehicle up.



Back up signaling device

Your vehicle may be equipped with a “back up beeper”. During the pre-trip inspection, make sure it is working. Always put the vehicle in reverse when backing up (don’t just roll backwards) so the back up beeper is engaged.

Be aware of the blind spots

If you are unfamiliar with the vehicle, it’s a good practice to place some 24” traffic cones in various areas around the vehicle so you can learn just how bad the blind spots are.

Use a spotter

Your organization may have implemented a policy that a spotter must be used in certain circumstances when moving your vehicle/mobile equipment. Be sure you follow any established safe practices.

Back up cameras

Many vehicles now may have these. While they may show you what is directly behind the vehicle, they don’t generally show what is to the rear corners of the vehicle. Don’t rely on them as the only defense against backing over a person or into an object.

Convex mirrors

These can greatly expand the visibility from your vehicle or equipment, as can mirror extensions if you are towing equipment.

Communicate with the crew

If you are working with a crew, ensure you are aware of their locations as you move the vehicle. Make eye contact. For those not operating the vehicle or equipment, avoid entering the vehicle blind spots and always remain visible to the operator.

WARNING
YOU MAY BE
IN A
BLIND SPOT