

safety matters

Construction
Toolbox Talks

From your safety partners at **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

Safely Reversing Vehicles

Reversing a vehicle, whether it is a small car or a heavy dumper truck, can be a difficult task with a lot of dangers involved. In fact, even at slow speeds many accidents occur due to blind spots, poor planning and lack of skill.

Tips for Safety

When you can avoid reversing, do so. Otherwise, follow these safety tips:

- Reverse slowly and never hurry through the process. Keep the vehicle in control at all times.
- If you have doubts about what is behind you or if space is too tight, do not reverse.
- Make use of your rear-view mirrors and rear window (if there is one) before and during the process; don't open your door to look behind you.
- Dumper trucks and heavy equipment such as bulldozers and graders have blind spots in which the operator has no view. In these cases the back-up route should be planned in advance.
- Reverse only as far as needed and then proceed forwards to move the vehicle the rest of the way.
- Back in and then drive out going forwards when parking in a car park.
- Place a cone behind your vehicle when parking if you will need to back out later. This will allow you to maintain clearance if a vehicle parks behind you.
- If you are in a blind spot, beep your horn twice before backing.
- Watch out for overhead power lines or any other obstructions that you may come in contact with.
- Do not reverse around corners or slip roads.
- Walk around the entire vehicle looking for hazards and remove them if necessary.

Spotters

Strongly consider using a spotter when backing your vehicle. When using a spotter, follow these general rules:

- Make contact with your spotter at all times. If you cannot hear and see him/her, do not reverse until you can.
- Agree on hand signals that the spotter will use to signal you to reverse and stop.
- Ask the spotter to walk around the vehicle and survey the backing area to check for hazards. Have him or her check your overhead clearance as well.
- Make sure that the spotter is at least two metres away from the vehicle before you begin to reverse.
- Some construction sites require flaggers. Stay aware of and work closely with these key members of your team when reversing.

If you have any doubts about your safety on the job – regarding driving your vehicle or any other issue – do not hesitate to talk to your supervisor.

Reversing a vehicle can be a difficult task with many dangers involved.



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