

# safety matters

Toolbox Talks for Aire Serv

From your safety partners at Gallagher Franchise Solutions

## Backing Up Safely in Your Vehicle

Backing up a vehicle, whether it is an automobile or large truck, can be a difficult task with a lot of dangers involved. In fact, many accidents occur when vehicles are backing up at only 5 mph or less, due to blind spots, poor planning and lack of skill.

### Tips for Safety

When employees can avoid backing up, they should do so. Otherwise, have them follow these safety tips:

- Back up 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 back up.
- Make use of your rear-view mirrors and rear window before and during the process; don't open your door to look behind you.
- Back up only as far as needed and then proceed forward to move the vehicle the rest of the way.
- Back in and then drive out going forward when parking in a lot.
- If you are in a blind spot, beep your horn twice or sound your backup alarm before backing.
- Watch out for overhead power lines or any other obstructions that you may come in contact with.

- Do not back around corners or exit ramps on the freeway.
- Walk around the entire vehicle looking for hazards and remove them if necessary.

### Spotters

Advise employees to strongly consider using a spotter when backing their vehicle. When using a spotter, they should follow these general rules:

- Make contact with your spotter at all times. If you cannot hear and see him or her, do not back up until you can.
- Agree on hand signals that the spotter will use to signal you to back up 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 the spotter is at least 8 feet away from the vehicle before you begin to back up.

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