

# SAFETY MONDAY

## BACKING CRASHES CAN BE AVOIDED

National Safety Council reported in 2017 that one out of every four crashes can be blamed on poor backing techniques. The average cost of “Property Damage Crash” is estimated at an average of \$7,400 per event. These crashes are preventable and while most only involve simple property damage, some lead to very serious injuries or even tragic fatalities. The use of safe vehicle backing tips by employers and employees can help prevent accidents while on the job.



### QUESTIONS BEFORE BACKING

- Do I need to back?
- Is there another way, other than backing?
- Have I checked for proper clearance: overhead awnings, power-lines, poles, other vehicles, people, etc.?
- Are there fixed objects, pot-holes, or uneven surfaces that may cause my equipment to shift and lean?
- Can other traffic move into my path?
- Can anyone potentially walk into my path?
- Do I need a Spotter to control or block other traffic?
- Will ice, snow, fog, or glare restrict my vision?
- Should this approach and path of travel be abandoned?



**When in doubt, remember your G.O.A.L.  
Get Out And Look!**