

Backing Safety for you and others

By combining awareness, safe habits, and proper use of technology, you can significantly reduce the risk of backing incidents. The best defense is to limit backing whenever possible. When you must back up, follow these steps:

Before You Get In the Vehicle

- **Do a circle check.** Walk around your vehicle to look for children, pets, bicycles, or objects in your path. Begin backing right away, as conditions can change quickly.
- **Park defensively.** Choose pull-through spaces so you can leave driving forward. If that's not possible, back in when you arrive—it's safer to pull out facing forward. Never stop behind equipment in use.
- **Check clearances.** Note low-hanging branches, wires, or other overhead hazards.

While Backing Up

- **Eliminate distractions.** Put away your phone, lower the radio, and stay focused.
- **Use mirrors and look back.** Backup cameras help but don't replace physically checking your mirrors and blind spots. Adjust mirrors before moving.
- **Go slow.** Use your brake to control speed and give yourself time to react.
- **Tap your horn.** In busy or low-visibility areas, use short taps to alert others.
- **Use a spotter if available.** Agree on hand signals and stop if you lose sight of them.

Using Vehicle Technology

- **Don't rely on it alone.** Cameras and sensors can miss obstacles or malfunction. Always use mirrors and a walk-around inspection.
- **Know its limits.** Understand your system's range and blind spots.
- **Keep it clean.** Wipe cameras and sensors to ensure they work properly.