

Backing & Reversing

In commercial vehicle operations, the most frequent hazard type is reversing. Statistically, reversing is rated as the cause for nearly 1/4th of all workplace fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles.

Controlling or correcting this hazard in the vehicle operations begins with understanding these concepts:

- Space Management
- Obstacles or Other Objects
- Operator Skills & Communication
- Environment

Most Commercial Motor Vehicles are larger than the typical passenger car. These vehicles have limited rear sight visibility. The blind spots to the sides and rear of the vehicles are very large. These blind spots are areas of limited visibility and also include elements above ground, i.e. trees, wires, roof overhangs and poles.

Space Management

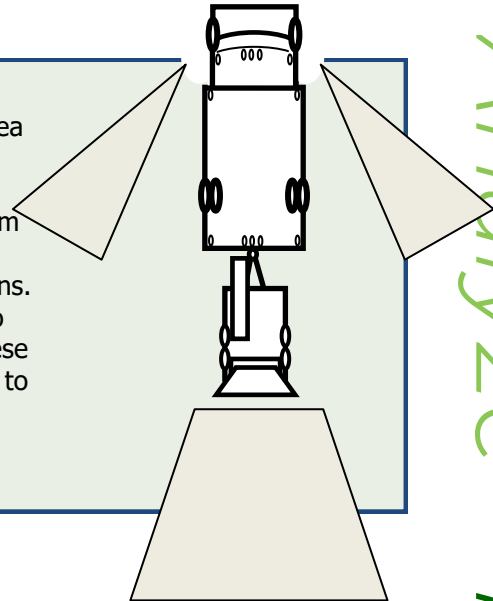
Drivers / operators must continuously manage the space around their vehicles. In reversing situations, this means

Tips to Remember

1. Remain alert at all times while reversing. Distractions can lead to disaster!
2. Be aware of your environment and manage your space.
3. If in doubt—stop and check it out
4. Use a guide at all times to reverse.
5. Use both mirrors and a guide while reversing.
6. Guides must be a second set of eyes for the driver.
7. Understand all hand signals—especially

knowing what objects are around the vehicle at all times while in operation. ***If in doubt, stop and check it out!***

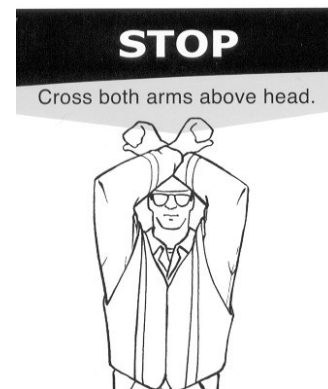
The Shaded area represents the typical blind spots of medium duty truck and trailer operations. Drivers need to understand these areas and how to manage these spaces.



Obstacles or Other Objects

Obstacles or objects fall into two general areas: Moving and Stationary. All vehicles have blind spots to the sides and rear. As the vehicle moves, objects may disappear into these blind spots.

- Moving Objects are among the most hazardous as people or other vehicles may move into your blind spot as you reverse.
- Stationary Objects can be moved into the vehicle's blind spot as your vehicle reverses. These objects can quickly disappear as the vehicle reverses requiring the driver to be constantly aware of the space around the vehicle.

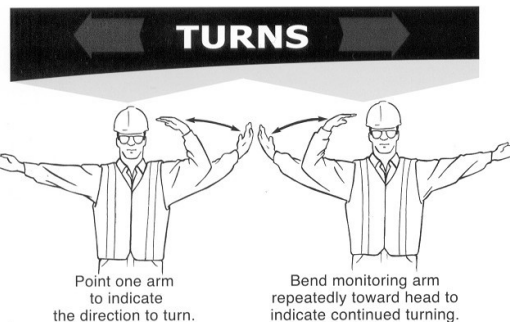
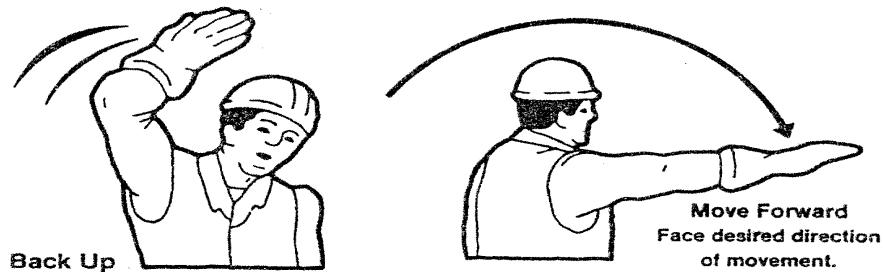


Analyze • Inform • Motivate

Operator Skills & Communication

Just as driving forward is a learned skill—so is reversing the vehicle. Operators need to be trained in using all tools such as proper mirror adjustment and usage. The operator needs to be skilled in the proper application of brakes and throttle, angle lines of attack and understanding the “S” method in reversing a trailer. Trained drivers understand the importance of these skills and importantly, the need of using a guide to reverse at all times.

The guide provides a second set of eyes and most importantly, can observe the vehicle’s blind spots while reversing.

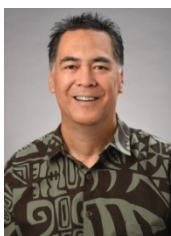


Environment

Drivers and guides need to remember that operations occur in many different environments and all manner of terrain from paved roadways to uneven and soft ground. Hazards include not just the ground but obstacles above ground such as trees, lines, wires, poles, and roofs.

About DTRIC Insurance Risk Consulting Services

The Risk Consulting Services team at DTRIC Insurance is designed to help you reduce accidents and injuries in the workplace. Our approach involves our proven **A.I.M.** process that is easy to understand and simple to implement. Contact us if you need assistance with setting up a safety process for your company.



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