Vehicle Safety: Avoiding Backing Accidents

One in four accidents involves backing. Considering that the average driver operates in reverse less than a mile every year, this statistic is even more alarming.

To prevent backing accidents, plan ahead and avoid backing whenever possible. Drivers should reduce backing operations in the first place.

When you must back up as a last resort, the following tips will help you avoid collisions:

- Continuously check all mirrors while backing

- Always back slowly while continuously looking and listening for signs of trouble.

- Try to position the vehicle to avoid backing.

- If backing cannot be avoided, it is better to back in upon arrival than to back out later while departing.

- Conduct a visual walk-around of the vehicle to check for maneuvering room or pedestrians.

- Whenever available, use a passenger to guide you during backing operations.

All backing accidents are preventable. The following key failures can cause collisions during backing operations:

- Failure to look before backing
- Failure to check blind spots
- Failure to conduct a walk-around
- Backing at an unsafe speed
- Failure to check mirrors often for potential hazards