



How to prevent backing and failure-to-yield auto accidents

Backing a vehicle and failure to yield are two common causes of car accidents.

In fact, the National Safety Council found that one in four vehicle accidents is a result of poor backing techniques, and failure to yield is a factor in approximately 7% of all fatal traffic accidents according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Backing accidents

While incidents from backing often occur at low speeds and typically do not result in significant property damage, they frequently cause serious injury or death on construction sites, in parking lots and in personal residential driveways.

Here are some steps to help prevent backing accidents:

- Before backing, check your mirrors and make necessary adjustments.
- If your vehicle is equipped with a backup alarm and camera, test them daily.
- Make it a habit to park in a way that minimizes the need to back your vehicle when you leave.
- If available, ask someone to be your spotter.
- Before backing, look around all sides and under your vehicle for debris, people or animals that may have moved since you parked.
- Scan the area for potential movements of other vehicles, equipment or pedestrians.
- When your path is clear and you're ready to reverse, proceed slowly and cautiously.
- Use mirrors and turn your head to look; do not rely solely on backup cameras.
- If you're reversing and turning, do so from the driver's side.

Failure-to-yield accidents

Failure-to-yield accidents are often avoidable, as drivers have the ability to develop and employ defensive habits that could prevent these incidents.

Here are some steps to help prevent failure-to-yield accidents:

- Constantly scan the road ahead for potential hazards.
- Slow down and approach intersections that have poor visibility or no stop signs/lights with your foot hovering over the brake.
- Signal your intentions early.
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Stay calm and give plenty of room when another driver cuts in front of you.
- If possible, make left turns at four-way stops or stoplights, as turning left through oncoming traffic is one of the riskiest maneuvers.
- Make eye contact with other drivers.
- Come to a complete stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Do not assume drivers on the intersecting street will observe traffic control devices.
- Avoid tailgating, as the vehicle in front of you may slow or stop suddenly.

Learn more about UFG Risk Control at ufginsurance.com/riskcontrol.

UFG Insurance is the marketing name used to refer to United Fire & Casualty Company and its property and casualty subsidiaries and affiliates. The information contained herein was obtained from reliable sources. However, UFG Insurance accepts no legal liability or responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this information and encourages consultation of additional safety information and resources.

This is for informational purposes only and is accurate as of the publication date. It may not reflect subsequent revisions and is intended for use only by UFG Insurance, UFG Insurance agents and their customers, and/or UFG Service Center employees. UFG Insurance does not undertake any obligation to update the information herein between publications.