

Defensive Driving – Start-Up/Back-Up

Defensive driving is driving so as to prevent accidents in spite of the incorrect actions of others or adverse driving conditions, such as weather, traffic, lighting, vehicle or road condition, or the driver's physical or mental state. The defensive driver assumes that other drivers may make mistakes and is on guard in the event an error is made.

Your safety program should include defensive driver training about the proper way to start-up and back-up a vehicle. During a typical start-up/back-up situation, a vehicle has been parked for a long enough time to allow pedestrians and other vehicles to approach and rest within a few feet of the parked vehicle. Starting up forward, backward, or steering left or right from a stopped position can create an unexpected hazard for both the driver and bystanders. The following are management areas that should be addressed and tips to help your driver become a defensive driver.

Management Issues

| | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Are your drivers aware of different types of hazards that may arise during start-up/back-up? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do drivers take time to walk around their vehicles and look under vehicles to check for people, vehicles, or other objects that may obstruct their start-up/back-up path? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does your company encourage drivers to make a walk-around check? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are vehicles provided with adequate mirrors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are drivers aware of the concept of a 'preventable accident'? A preventable accident is one in which the driver failed to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the accident. This is irrespective of the extent of property damage and/or personal injury, to whom it occurred or the location of the accident. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

During a typical start-up/back-up situation, a vehicle has been parked for a long enough time to allow pedestrians and other vehicles to approach and rest within a few feet of the parked vehicle.

Driver Tips

To be a defensive driver, your drivers should:

- Walk around the vehicle and look underneath to ensure they have safe clearance before moving a vehicle.
- Check the blind area on the right and in front.
- Not delay in moving a vehicle after assuring all is clear.
- Adjust mirrors as needed.
- Start up slowly, at first, to allow other vehicles and pedestrians, who may have unexpectedly approached, to safely move away.
- Tap their horn in congested areas or recruit a signaler to assist them.

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to simply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.
301 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 F13845-LP (12/12)

