



# SAFETY MONDAY

March 12, 2012

## BACKING

Recent studies have found backing is associated with nearly 25% of all accidents involving solid waste trucks. Although the number of backing fatalities and injuries has declined in recent years, solid waste trucks occasionally back into people, sometimes with fatal consequences.

Backing is one of the most dangerous things you can do while driving, whether your own car or a garbage truck. Always back slowly, use your camera and mirrors, make sure the backup alarm is working, and keep your helper in sight at all times. The helper should never be on the riding step while the truck is backing. Don't allow yourself to become distracted while backing. There are a variety of collision avoidance systems that can help prevent these accidents. Remember, many pedestrians are wearing Ipods or are on their cell phones, or are older and do not have good hearing and may not hear or see a backing garbage truck. This increases the burden on drivers to make sure no one is behind the truck.

Some companies focus on specific safety issues as part of their safety program. Because most routes involve backing and it is a potentially dangerous operation, backing training should be an important part of your safety program.




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