

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense
 Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Backing Up, Blind Corners, & Pedestrians

- Driving a vehicle may seem like an easy task, but there are unexpected dangers everywhere, and you may not be able to see them until the last second. Three potential “hidden” driving hazards include backing up, blind corners, and pedestrians.
- Backing up—Backing up is not a natural action. People are not used to having to do things in reverse. Try to park in ways where you may be able to avoid backing up. If you must back up, use caution. Check your rearview and side mirrors. Turn around and keep an eye on your path. When driving a commercial vehicle, it may be a good idea to use a spotter behind you and in your sight to help you. If possible, look directly out of the back of the vehicle, or use all of your mirrors to guide you. Do not hang out the driver’s side door or window to see what is behind you. This leaves three sides of the vehicle unwatched. Never back around a corner at an intersection to turn around. Drive around the block instead.
- Blind Corners—Blind corners are corners that you cannot see around. There may be hazards waiting literally around the corner. When approaching a blind corner, proceed with caution. Drive slowly, stay to the right, and be alert. When you are driving on the job site, sound your horn before turning any blind corners to warn pedestrians or other vehicles of your presence. Avoid making “U” turns in areas where other drivers may not see you.
- Pedestrians—Pedestrians pose a threat for drivers, especially in a highly populated setting, because they are unpredictable. Try to make eye contact with pedestrians so you know they see you. While most pedestrians use crosswalks and obey traffic signals, you must be aware of those who do not. Someone may dart out at the last second to try and cross the street just as your traffic signal turns green. Children in residential areas may run out onto the street from between parked cars without looking both ways. Look out for the last minute street crossers before you begin to accelerate, and slow down in residential areas where children play. When stopped at a red light, be sure that your vehicle does not block the crosswalk so that the pedestrians can cross without trouble. Keep in mind that pedestrians always have the right of way.

Instructor Tips

- **Ask workers to recall driving experiences that resulted in “close calls” or accidents involving backing up, blind corners, or pedestrians.**

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