Backing and Spotter Safety Training

Overview
Accidents are likely to occur from improper or reckless backing practices. Backing trucks are hazardous because of the many blind spots and rearward vision limits.

A spotter is **REQUIRED** when driving a truck in reverse because the driver does not have a clear sight or a full view of the area behind, and there is the high possibility of injuring someone or causing property damage.

PRIOR TO BACKING

- **Take 2**
The Master Technician and the Technician should take **at least two minutes** to assess the surrounding area to look for any low overhead clearance hazards, obstructions on either side of the truck, and any pedestrians are already in the area or nearing the area.
Technician Responsibilities as the Spotter

- The Spotter must have a safety vest on at all times while spotting.
- Stand 8-10 feet away from the truck on the driver’s side.
- Maintain eye contact with the driver through the mirror when possible.
- Avoid walking backwards while spotting, to eliminate trips and falls.
- **DO NOT** place yourself between the truck and a fixed object, such as a tree, pole, or another vehicle.

Spotter Hand Signals:

- **Back, Turn Right**
- **Back, Turn Left**
- **Back Up**
- **Slow Down**
Spotter Hand Signals (continued)

Stop

Move Forward

Distance Left to Back
Master Technician Responsibilities as the Driver:

a. Turn off the radio and remove any electronic device headsets, such as headphone or Bluetooth ear device, to ensure you can hear the Spotter.
b. Locate all blind spots before vehicle is placed in reverse.
c. Always maintain a safe operating speed.
d. Maintain eye contact with the driver through the mirror when possible, until you have safely backed the truck into the position needed to proceed forward.
e. Stop the truck immediately if you can no longer see the Spotter.
Quiz

Employee Name: _______________________________  Employee ID: __________

Date: _______________  Score: _______________

1. What does Take 2 mean?
   a. Take a 2-minute rest break before you back the truck up.
   b. Take 2 minutes to assess the area for hazards, obstructions, and pedestrians.
   c. Wait 2 minutes and then proceed with backing the truck.

2. Spotter must always have a safety vest on while spotting.
   a. True
   b. False

3. Check all CORRECT Master Technician Responsibilities.
   a. ___Locate all blind spots before vehicle is placed in reverse.
   b. ___Stop the truck immediately if you can no longer see the Spotter.
   c. ___It is okay to have the radio on while backing if you can see the Spotter.
   d. ___Always maintain a safe operating speed.
Master Technician Truck Driving Agreement

I agree that under no circumstances will I put my truck in reverse, without first sending a spotter to direct while backing. I understand how important this is and realize I cannot safely see what or who may be behind my truck when backing up.

If I should back up without a Spotter, I realize my employment will be terminated.

_________________________________________  ________________
Master Technician’s Name (Print)                   Date

_________________________________________
Master Technician’s Signature

_________________________________________  _______________________
Witness – Name Print                              Witness – Signature