



Adventist Risk
Management® Inc.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT PREVENTION

When getting in our vehicles, we have the best intentions of completing our task and returning unscathed. But that is not always the outcome. Sometimes, we do not even leave our own property incident free.

Constant awareness of everything going on around us is crucial to road safety, whether you are just starting your trip or already moving down the road.





3 Keys to Backing-Out Awareness

1. Look Before You Leave

Before driving off, complete a walk around the vehicle to make sure the area is clear. Look for hidden objects, children, or animals before you back up. It may not stay clear, but you've taken an important step toward accident prevention by verifying it is safe to leave.

2. Look As You Leave

As you back up, remain vigilant of what is happening in all directions. Cars or people can suddenly show up behind you. Another vehicle may back out of the spot across from you without looking. Many newer cars have backup cameras, but do not depend on them alone. Add the backup camera to your awareness arsenal and combine it with properly adjusted windows and mirrors, and listening for sounds (voices, horns, etc.) that can alert you to the presence of unseen objects.

3. Look Up

Don't forget to look up! This action is particularly useful with taller vehicles. A driver of a delivery truck knew where he wanted to go, but failed to look up and notice the overhang of a parking structure. He also did not take into account the height of his vehicle. Repairs had to be made not only to the truck for the puncture hole the accident left in its cargo box, but also to the carport cover the driver hit.

3 Keys to On the Road Awareness

AWARENESS OF SURROUNDINGS IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT WHEN TRAVELING DOWN THE ROAD AS IT IS IN THE PARKING LOT. ON THE ROAD, SURROUNDINGS CAN BE INFLUENCED BY ANY NUMBER OF CHANGING CONDITIONS, FROM TRAFFIC, TO PEDESTRIANS, TO WEATHER.

1. Distance In-Car Distractions

Accidents can be avoided when drivers see a collision coming and take evasive action. Reaction time is slowed when cell phones distract a driver, or if hands are occupied with food or drink. Daydreaming, putting on makeup, or driving when exhausted are other distractions that prevent drivers from avoiding an accident. Reduce distractions in your vehicle and increase awareness of your surroundings.

2. Increase Your Awareness After Dark

Driving toward the rising or setting sun can cause sun glare and decrease driving visibility. Less visibility increases the opportunity for collisions. Once the sun goes down, it is much harder to see objects, pedestrians and cyclists, especially if wearing dark clothing. An even more dangerous practice after dark is that some disobey rules of the road regarding the right of way and traffic signals. Increase your awareness during these times to avoid accidents.

3. Increase Awareness in Adverse Weather

Be aware of and fully understand the effect of weather conditions on vehicle handling. In fog, rain, and snow, it is harder to see what is happening ahead and around you. The vehicle becomes more difficult to control in wet and slippery conditions and cannot stop as quickly. Accident after accident occurs because people do not slow down. Awareness requires an intelligent response to weather and road conditions around you. Although you might do everything right, the driver ahead, behind, or beside you may not.

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ARM Cares

When heading out to your car, look around and then remain alert when backing up, pulling out, and while cruising down the road. For more risk management resources to help keep your family and ministry safe, visit AdventistRisk.org

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