



# TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION SAFETY TALKS

an initiative of the **TXOGA** Workers' Compensation Safety Group

## Safe Backing Procedures

### *What this Safety Talk Covers:*

The “Dos” and “Don’ts” of backing up when working on a job site.

### *Discussion Notes:*

Discuss the outcomes of the “Dos” and “Don’ts.”

- Do**
  - ✓ Walk a complete circle around your vehicle before backing, especially after parking at a well site, lease road, or yard where ground conditions and traffic change fast.
  - ✓ Use a spotter whenever you're backing near a rig, wellhead, tank battery, or congested pipe yard, and agree on hand signals before you start moving.
  - ✓ Sound your horn before backing in active work areas where crews may be focused on a task and not watching for vehicle movement.
  - ✓ Check for overhead and ground-level hazards unique to the location, such as pipe racks, flowlines, wellhead equipment, and temporary hoses or cables, before committing to a backing path.
  - ✓ Back into parking spots when arriving at a location so you can pull straight out later, particularly important for quick exits during an emergency at a well site or facility.
  - ✓ Roll your window down and turn down the radio so you can hear ground guides, equipment alarms, or warning shouts while backing.
- Don't**
  - ✗ Back blind through areas with frac tanks, mud pits, cellars, or other ground-level hazards that won't show up clearly in a mirror or camera.
  - ✗ Assume the location looks the same as it did when you pulled in. Rig moves, pipe deliveries, and crew changes happen quickly in the oilfield.
  - ✗ Back without a spotter near live wells, pressurized lines, or any equipment where contact could cause a release or rupture.
  - ✗ Rely solely on backup cameras around well sites or pipe yards. Dust, mud, and glare common in the oilfield can blind a camera when you need it most.
  - ✗ Back near personnel on foot without making eye contact or getting a clear acknowledgment first.
  - ✗ Rush the backing maneuver to save time between locations — a few extra seconds is always cheaper than a struck person or damaged equipment.





# TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION SAFETY TALKS

an initiative of the **TXOGA** Workers' Compensation Safety Group

## Employee Quiz Safe Backing Procedures

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the correct answer below

1. Before backing your vehicle, you should:
  - a. Check your mirrors only, since you already looked when you parked
  - b. Walk a complete circle around the vehicle
  - c. Wait for someone else to check for you
  - d. Only check if you're at a refinery
2. When should you use a spotter while backing in the oilfield?
  - a. Only when backing a trailer
  - b. Only at night
  - c. When backing near a rig, wellhead, tank battery, or congested pipe yard
  - d. Only if one is required by your supervisor that day
3. Why shouldn't you rely solely on backup cameras at well sites or pipe yards?
  - a. Cameras are too expensive to maintain
  - b. Dust, mud, and glare common in the oilfield can blind a camera
  - c. Cameras are only useful for parallel parking
  - d. Most company vehicles don't have them
4. What is the safest parking strategy when arriving at a location?
  - a. Park nose-in so you're ready to leave quickly
  - b. Park wherever is closest to the entrance
  - c. Back into the spot so you can pull straight out later
  - d. Park diagonally to save space
5. Rolling down your window and turning down the radio while backing can help you hear ground guides, alarms, or warning shouts.
  - a. True
  - b. False

Training record: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Jobsite/Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*TXOGA Safety Talks are provided for the benefit of Texas Oil & Gas Association members participating in the TXOGA Workers' Comp. Safety Group with Texas Mutual Insurance Company.*