

**TALKING PAPER**  
**ON**  
**BACKING HAZARDS**

***PURPOSE***

- Provide information on the dangers associated with backing vehicles

***DEFINITION***

- Backing mishaps are a result of backing a vehicle and striking a person or another object. Striking a person often results in death or serious injury, while striking another object may result in significant damage costs and potentially an injury to a person.

***BACKGROUND***

- Over the past 5 years (FY2011-FY2015) AF Government Motor Vehicles have been involved in 68 backing mishaps.
- Backing mishaps accounted for 16 class C mishaps and 2 class A mishaps (2 fatal), 16 Class C mishaps, 13 Class D mishaps and 37 property damage mishaps.
- Backing incidents have resulted in over \$1,157,184.00 in property damage and injuries

***DISCUSSION***

- Governing directives for backing can be found in AFI91-203, Air Force Consolidated Occupational Safety Instruction and AFMAN24-306, Manual for the Wheeled vehicle Operator
- Two Fatal Causal Factors
  - Failure to follow proper backing procedures as established by AFI91-203 and AFMAN24-306.
  - Complacency by management to correct members when local policy on backing was not followed. Failure by members to follow proper backing procedures as established by local policy, AFI91-203 and AFMAN24-306.
- Prevention Tools
  - Always follow established guidance using local instructions and policies as well as AFI91-203 and AFMAN24-306 guidance
  - Ensure spotters and operators are fully trained and understand their responsibilities
  - Avoid backing if possible, park in such a manner that precludes the need to back
  - Always use spotters when backing if visibility to the rear of the vehicle is limited

- Do complete walk-around vehicle before backing to ensure path is clear
- Use available technology when available, audible warning, backup cameras, etc.

### ***SUMMARY***

Backing mishaps continue to cost the Air Force valuable resources, in terms of injuries and fatalities to our most precious resource, our Airmen, and Air Force vehicles, equipment and property damage. All of these mishaps are preventable and the first defense is ensuring operators and spotters are properly trained and following published guidelines in AFI91-203 and AFMAN24-306 for backing vehicles and equipment.