



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. 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.

Three Keys to Backing-Out Awareness



1. Look Before You Leave

Before driving off, 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



3. Look Up

Don't forget to look up! This action is particularly useful with taller vehicles. You should always know the height of your vehicle, especially if it's one you're unfamiliar with. If you run into a low-hanging structure there will be damage to the vehicle as well as the structure.



Three Keys to On-the-Road Awareness

Being aware of your 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. 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 increase the risk for accidents. Reduce distractions in your vehicle and increase awareness of your surroundings.



3. Awareness in Adverse Weather

wearing dark clothing or disobeying the rules of the road, right of way, or traffic signals. Increased awareness during these times is necessary to avoid accidents.

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.



2. Awareness at Dawn, Dusk and After Dark

Driving toward the rising or setting sun can cause sun glare and decrease 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 they are

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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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