



Since the inception of ICRMP in 1985, our most frequent cause of Property/Casualty claims has been auto claims. No other claim category comes close. The bad news: auto crashes are frequent and severe for Idaho local government agencies. The good news is that auto crashes can be reduced by focusing on safe driving!

Backing

Almost all backing collisions are preventable. A collision may be preventable if:

- Driver backed up when backing could have been avoided by better planning of the route.
- Driver backed into traffic stream when such backing could have been avoided.
- Driver failed to get out of vehicle and check proposed path of backward travel.
- Driver depended solely on mirrors when it was practicable to look back.
- Driver relied solely on a guide to help with the backing.

Tips on Preventing Backing Collisions:

- Avoid backing!
- Back only when it is absolutely necessary.
- Use pull-through parking or parallel parking when it is available.
- Actively look for alternatives to backing.

Backing requires extra caution because it is difficult for drivers to see behind their vehicles. Here are some rules you should follow whenever you have to back up:

- Check behind the vehicle before you get in. Children or small objects are hard to see from the driver's seat.
- Put your right arm on the back of the seat and look over your shoulder directly through the rear window. Don't rely on your mirrors.
- Back slowly. Your vehicle is more difficult to control while backing. Continue looking back until you come to a complete stop.

Source: From Idaho Drivers Manual (2014)

Funds not spent to pay for backing collisions could be used in positive ways within your entity!

Discuss:

1. Have you or someone you know had a backing "close call"?
2. Discuss ways you can eliminate backing. What are alternatives to backing?