

Parking Lot Safety

Many people drive or walk in a parking lot on a daily basis. Parking lots are much riskier than you may think. We often let down our guard due to complacency and overlook the hazards and risks that we face in these areas. Surprisingly, one in five vehicle accidents in the United States occur in parking lots. The National Safety Council found on average at least 60,000 people are injured and 500 or more die in the 50,000 plus crashes in parking lots and garages every year. Often drivers and pedestrians are distracted in parking lots with focus increasing on technology diverting attention away from where one is headed. This lack of focus increases our risk of vehicle collisions and pedestrian injuries.

Pedestrian Safety:

- Be cautious and aware of your surroundings when walking in a parking lot - keep your head up and look around.
- Treat the parking lot like a street. Look both ways before crossing, “*Look Twice to Live*”, use crosswalks, walkways, and sidewalks.
- Eliminate distractions that take your focus from the task at Hand- i.e., wearing headphones, talking on/looking at a cellphone, etc.
- Do not assume that drivers can see you when you can see them. In many cases, the pedestrian sees and hears a vehicle before a driver can see the pedestrian due to blind spots in vehicles.
- Walk down the parking lots aisles and not in-between vehicles.
- Avoid areas where it would be hard for a driver to see you, (loading dock areas, parking garage entry/exit ramps).
- Walk in well-lit areas and use a flashlight during low light hours.
- **At a minimum**, PPE must include an ANSI Class 1, 2 or 3 hi-visibility vest, shirt or other outerwear that is always worn when working in parking lots and garages, especially in low light hours and reduced visibility conditions. The minimum PPE requirements must be outlined in the [Job Safety Analysis \(JSA\)](#).
- Parking garages are often more difficult to drive and walk through safely due to limited clearance and visibility. Use extra caution in a parking garage. Never walk up or down entry or exit ramps.
- Prevent a slip/fall injury by avoiding stepping on painted lines in wet weather or walking through puddles. Wear appropriate footwear to provide adequate traction in winter wet weather conditions. Notify supervisor and client of any hazardous conditions.



Driver Safety:

- Keep your mobile device out of sight and out of hand to avoid distraction. According to a National Safety Council poll, 66% of drivers said they are willing to make phone calls while driving in parking areas, 63% stated they program a GPS app during this time, and 50% said they send or receive emails. Operating a vehicle requires 100% of your attention.
- Turning off the radio and cracking your windows can be helpful to hear noises that can help you prevent a collision.
- When looking for a place to park, it is generally safer to park further away where there is less pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- Drivers of motorcycles, golf carts and bicycles are to follow the same traffic rules as drivers of vehicles. All vehicles need to obey stop signs and other traffic controls.
- Slow Down! The speed limit is 10 mph in the parking lots. Any faster speeds may result in a fatal injury to a pedestrian.
- Reduce speeds in bad weather. In wet weather, vehicles have a higher chance of skidding.

Avoid Backing- Did you know that 25% of collisions in parking lots occur when a driver is moving in reverse?

- Follow the [Rules of Backing](#)
- Drivers are limited in their ability to see and react to hazards when moving in reverse.
- Ideally, avoid backing out of a space by pulling through when parking.
- When a pull-through space is not an option, back into a space when parking. At this time you have better control and view of the area.
- If you must back out of a parking space, walk around the vehicle before getting inside, crack the window and tap the horn before moving slowly in reverse, keeping your eyes focused for moving vehicles or pedestrians nearby.

RULES OF VEHICLE BACKING

Always follow these rules to eliminate backing accidents when operating a vehicle in the course of your duties or for company business.

RULE 1: Avoid backing.

RULE 2: If your view is obstructed, stop!

RULE 3: If you must back, look and then always back first.

RULE 4: If you must back, always back to the driver's side of the vehicle.

RULE 5: If you must back, check your mirrors and rear view camera the entire time you are backing.

Tools to help you increase your awareness around parking lot safety

- [Rules of Backing Video](#)
- [Tab 005 - Job Safety Analysis \(JSA\) Program](#)
- [HSE 013 - Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- [Visit our Safety SharePoint Page](#)

MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC | JULY 2024

Allied Universal Safety Message — Talking Points for Managers

July 2024: Parking Lot Safety

Managers: Use these talking points below to educate your employees about the monthly safety topic. If your site does not hold group meetings, speak with each employee individually throughout the month about this topic.

Speak with your employees about the safe work practices to prevent unsafe conditions and bad outcomes they may encounter while working in a parking lot or garage. Use the questions below to ensure they understand parking lot safety and the expectation to follow the Rules of Backing.

1. What is the appropriate speed to drive in a parking lot?

- Drivers should not exceed the posted speed limit in a parking lot.
- Generally, the speed should be limited to a maximum of 10mph, to allow drivers to safely stop for pedestrians in close proximity and limit the risk of fatal injuries.
- Always keep in mind to adjust your speed based on road conditions and weather!

2. True or False: Should you treat the parking lot like a street?

- TRUE:
- Drivers in a parking lot need to obey traffic signage, speed limit and traffic lines in the parking lot as they would on a public roadway.
- Pedestrians in a parking lot need to look both ways for moving vehicles and use crosswalks, sidewalks, and walkways where available.

3. How do I know what PPE (hi-visibility) is required for a job or task?

- JSA section (H) Required Personal Protective Equipment &/or Tools

4. In a parking lot, is it safer to walk between vehicles or down the aisles?

- Walk down the parking lots aisles and not in-between vehicles
- Avoid areas where it would be hard for a driver to see you. Be where drivers expect you to be.

5. Which is the best/safest parking option for vehicle backing?

- Drivers and pedestrians are at the greatest risk of a collision in a parking lot when a vehicle is moving in reverse. The best method for entering and exiting a parking space is to pull through in forward.
 - (BEST) Pull-through the parking space and drive forward to exit - *totally avoid backing*
 - (ACCEPTABLE) Back-into the parking space and drive forward to exit – *reverse while you have visibility and control of the space*
 - (WORST) Pull-into the parking space and back-out/reverse to exit – least safe method because of lack of visibility

Reminder:

- All Allied Universal Vehicles are to have the reminder sticker titled: **5 Rules of Backing** installed to the interior of the vehicle. These stickers can be purchased through Verian