

OBJECTIVE 3.7 Identify acceptable backing methods during an emergency response.

## INTRODUCTION

With good routine backing habits, an officer will be able to minimize the risks generated while backing during an emergency. The chances for a backing collision increase with emergency response because officers seldom practice backing at higher speeds and heightened emotions.

## CONTENT

Acceptable backing methods for use during emergency response include:

1. Avoid backing unless absolutely necessary.
2. Back in a straight line if possible.
  - a. Keep one hand on the top of the steering wheel.
  - b. Twist body to look out the rear window.
  - c. Check mirrors and front of vehicle periodically.
  - d. Avoid steering dramatically, as the front of the vehicle will be extremely sensitive to steering actions.
  - e. Keep speed constant.
  - f. Brake smoothly, as front wheel lock-up is likely if hard braking is applied.
3. If turning is necessary, the best strategy is to avoid trying to save time by hurrying a maneuver. Turn in reverse safely and carefully and absorb the time in an attempt to guarantee successful completion of the reverse maneuver.
4. Avoid backing long distances whenever possible. Turn the vehicle around and maneuver in a forward gear.
5. Refer to the content on backing in Objective 2.13.



**SUMMARY**

The student should understand that reverse maneuvering in an emergency response will be much more difficult due to heightened emotions and greater speed. By practicing the suggested backing methods mentioned in Objective 2.13, and combining them with the methods mentioned in this objective, the student will develop a thorough foundation of knowledge on which to base backing decisions.

**SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY****LECTURE WITH VISUALS**

Supplement the presentation with diagrams or photographs to enhance the learning process. Refer to content and Instructional Methodology included in Objective 2.13.

**SMALL GROUP WITH VIDEO**

Divide the class into groups of 3 students. Have the students videotape their performance while backing through a predetermined course on the practice driving area. Have student #1 drive, #2 assist from the instructor's seat, and #3 stand outside and videotape the performance. Have them switch positions until each has performed all three functions. Bring the videotape into the classroom for reviewing.

**RESOURCES AND AIDS**

1. Driver training textbooks
2. Traffic safety programs at the university level
3. "Guide For In-Car Instruction," by Frederik Mottola
4. In-Car Curriculum: Washington Department of Education
5. Driver training vehicle
6. Practice driving area and public streets



**SUGGESTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

**STUDENTS**

Written or verbal responses to questions concerning reverse maneuvering and backing methods used during an emergency response

**COURSE**

1. Observe on-the-job performance.
2. Review agency collision reports for collisions involving backing.