







Preventing Back Over Injuries and Deaths

Every year, children are injured and killed because drivers (in some cases, parents) don't see them while backing up. Most incidents occur in residential driveways or parking lots.

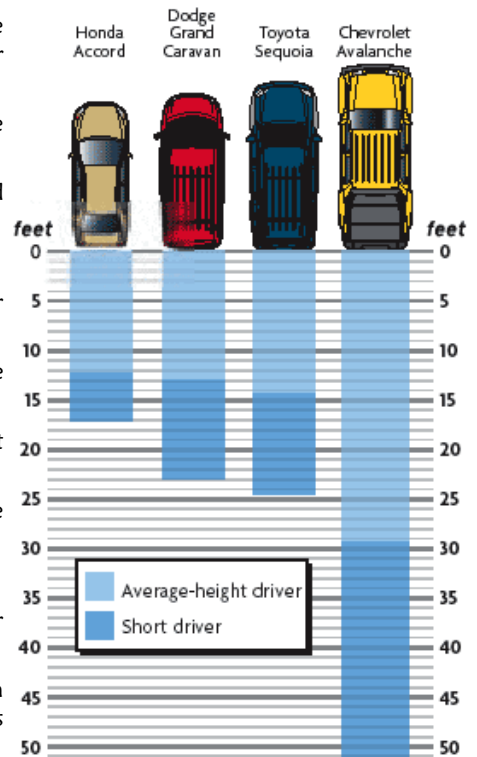
-  Most victims are between 12 and 23 months old
-  Over 60% of backing up incidents involved a larger size vehicle (truck, van, SUV)
-  Tragically, in over 70% of these incidents, a parent or close relative is behind the wheel
-  A recent report indicates over 2,400 children are treated in emergency rooms every year due to a child being struck by or rolled over by a vehicle moving in reverse

Backovers can happen in any vehicle because all vehicles have a blind zone; the area behind a vehicle you can't see from the driver's seat (see diagram below). The danger tends to increase with larger vehicles and shorter drivers.

To prevent these tragedies from occurring in your community, share the following safety tips with your family, neighbors and friends.

Safety Tips:

- Walk around and behind a vehicle prior to moving it
- Know where your kids are. Make children move away from your vehicle to a place where they are in full view before moving the car and know that another adult is properly supervising children before moving your vehicle
- Teach children that "parked" vehicles might move. Let them know that they can see the vehicle; but the driver might not be able to see them
- Consider installing cross view mirrors, audible collision detectors, rear view video camera and/or some type of back up detection device
- Measure the size of your blind zone (area) behind the vehicles you drive
- Be aware that steep inclines and large SUV's, vans and trucks add to the difficulty of seeing behind a vehicle
- Hold children's hand when leaving the vehicle
- Teach your children to never play in, around or behind a vehicle
- Keep toys and other sports equipment off the driveway
- Never leave children alone in or around cars; not even for a minute
- Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway
- Keys should never be left within reach of children
- Always make sure all child passengers have left the car after it is parked
- Be especially careful about keeping children safe in and around cars during busy times, schedule changes and periods of crisis or holidays



Blind zones as measured by *Consumer Reports* October 2004
Illustration by Trevor Johnston

This information was gathered on the Kids and Cars website, www.kidsandcars.org and brought to you by the Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha Foundation as part of its Pediatric Trauma Prevention program.

