Backing Roundtable

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Professional Transportation, Inc.
PTI was founded in 1980 with the following core values:
  – Safety
  – Dependability
  – Customer Service

Those same three fundamentals continue to be steadfast for PTI for nearly 40 years.

Crew transportation is the process of driving railroad train crews from point A to point B.

These railroad crews need transportation to get to their starting point as well as brought back home after their route is complete.

Active members of the National Safety Council for over 20 years and for the last 15 years active on the NSC transportation division.

PTI is comprised of over 5,000 associates providing transportation services to some of the largest companies in the railroad, mining and energy industries.
The Backing Problem

Backing Collisions are not a high severity accident. The potential to impact a human while backing, though rare, can lead to a serious injury in our industry.

Our current backing policy focuses on avoiding the backing maneuver. If it has to be done, practice Get Out and Look (G.O. A.L.), and not backing with a crew.

Using the risk calculator, which focuses on probability and severity of an injury, the risk level for backing is low and scored 2.33 / 10.

Backing collisions, from an accountability standpoint, is an automatic three-day suspension.

From a cost perspective, backing is usually the least most expensive collisions we have.
The Backing Problem

According to the National Safety Council backing collisions account for 25% of all transportation collisions.

Although PTI drivers operate in reverse only a fraction of the time compared to moving forward, collisions while operating in reverse are frequent.

Backing collisions are the second most frequent collision at PTI.

All backing collisions are preventable.

Drivers skilled at backing but make poor decisions.

So why do they happen??

- Visibility is poor and it’s therefore easier to miss seeing a hazard.
- Drivers in a hurry and fail to take the time to ensure no hazards.
- Driver backing in situations where it could have been avoided.
- Drivers fail to walk around the vehicle to check for hazards.
Backing Videos
What’s working?

- 60% decline in backing collisions from 2018 to 2020.
- On pace for an additional 25% reduction in backing collisions in 2021 when compared to 2020.
- High accountability for backing collisions.
- Infrequent injuries from backing collisions.
- Still concerned with high likelihood for injuries due to environment we operate in (People).
- Probably the most preventable collision we track.
- Why do they still happen? What can we do?
Path Forward - What Can We Do?