



# Procedure when Reversing

Nearly a quarter of all deaths involving vehicles at work occur during reversing. Many other reversing accidents do not result in injury but cause costly damage to vehicles, equipment and premises.

Most of these accidents can be avoided by taking simple precautions, such as those below.

## Guidance

Ensure you are familiar with the layout of the workplace, and with any site rules. report to reception on arrival?

### **In locations where reversing cannot be avoided:**

- People who do not need to be in reversing areas should be kept well clear.
- Use a trained signaller (a banksman), both to keep the reversing area free of pedestrians and to guide you.
- Be aware: The use of signallers is not allowed in some industries due to the size of vehicles involved, and the difficulty that drivers have in seeing them.
- A signaller:
  - Will need to use a clear, agreed system of signalling.
  - Will need to be visible to drivers at all times.
  - Will need to stand in a safe position, from which to guide the reversing vehicle without being in its way.
  - Should wear very visible clothing, such as reflective vests, and ensure that any signals are clearly seen.
- If you lose sight of the signallers they should know to stop immediately and so should you.
- Use portable radios or similar communication systems.
  - Most Dowse vehicles already have external side-mounted and rear-view mirrors fitted. These need to be kept clean and in good repair.
  - Refractive lenses fitted to rear windows or closed-circuit television systems are fitted to help you to see behind the vehicle.
  - If you cannot see behind the vehicle, you should leave the cab and check behind the vehicle before reversing.
- Reversing alarms and cameras are fitted to all Dowse Vehicles.
  - These should be kept in working order.
  - Audible alarms should be loud and distinct enough that they do not become part of the background noise.
  - where an audible alarm might not stand out from the background noise, flashing warning lights can be used.

- Other safety devices can be fitted to vehicles:
  - For example, a number of 'sensing' and 'trip' systems are available, which either warn the driver or stop the vehicle when an obstruction is detected close to, or comes in contact with, the reversing vehicle. (Some Dowse Vehicles have these fitted)
- Stops such as barriers, or buffers at loading bays can be used. They should be highly visible, and sensibly positioned.
- Where vehicles reverse up to structures or edges, barriers or wheel stops can be used to warn drivers that they need to stop.
- White lines on the floor can help the driver position the vehicle accurately.

24<sup>th</sup> June 2017