

AVOIDING THE COUNTY'S MOST COMMON VEHICLE ACCIDENT: BACKING UP

Here are some tips to improve driving habits and increase your awareness level while backing a County vehicle:



According to the National Safety Council, one out of every four vehicle accidents can be blamed on poor backing techniques. Backing accidents cause approximately 500 deaths and 15,000 injuries per year. The use of safe vehicle backing tips by employers and employees can help prevent accidents while on and off the job.

- **Get to Know the Blind Spots.** In a medium sized truck, blind spots can extend up to 16 feet in front and 160 feet behind a vehicle. Drivers need to remember that mirrors can never give the whole picture while backing.
- **Think in Advance.** Drivers should not put themselves into unnecessary backing situations.
- **Park Defensively.** Drivers must choose easy exit parking spaces that don't crowd neighboring vehicles and park their vehicle in the center of the parking space.
- **Perform a Walk-Around.** Walking around a vehicle gives a driver firsthand view of the backing area and any limitations. They can check for children, soft or muddy areas, potholes, tire hazards, and other dangers.
- **Know the Clearances.** When performing a walk-around, drivers can check for obstructions, low-hanging trees and wires, and any other potential clearance-related problems.
- **Every Backing Situation is New and Different.** Sometimes a driver visits the same location several times a day and should be watchful each visit for changes and any new obstacles. Don't get complacent.
- **Use a Spotter.** A driver should ask someone to help them when backing. The driver and spotter should use hand signals instead of verbal ones and make sure they understand each other's signals. Ensure the spotter doesn't walk backwards while giving instructions.
- **When There is No Spotter.** Perform a walkaround and return to the vehicle within a few seconds after finishing. This will allow very little time for people and/or obstacles to change behind the vehicle. Backing without a spotter should only take place after a driver has as much information about the area as possible. A back up alarm can help warn away pedestrians and drivers of other vehicles who may try to enter the area the vehicle is backing into.
- **Never Assume.** Driver's should never assume people will walk safely behind or stop for backing vehicles. If you see someone in your mirror, stop until you are certain they are clear and in a safe position.



We all know the dangers of leaving children and pets inside hot cars, but what about employee exposure? From Corona to Blythe many county employees use private and county vehicles to get to work and home as well as for work, depending on our job duties. County vehicles used sparingly can be parked for days or weeks unused baking in the sun. When the time to use them arises, the interior temperature could be up to 172 degrees!

Findings

Data show the differences between interior and exterior of both vehicles average 27 degrees Fahrenheit. Although significant, this assessment was not conducted during the warmest time of the day (3pm) or warmest month of the year (Aug). Under those conditions the levels would probably be higher.

Therefore, on a hot day to cool your car’s interior consider employing

Other safety tips to remember when entering hot vehicles:

Upon entering vehicle, be careful of physical contact with seatbelt buckles, door handles, vinyl seats and gear shifters because these items can be hot enough to cause a superficial skin burn;

Keep that icy cold bottle of water handy, you just may need it to cool down;

If possible, look for shady areas to

Vehicle	Time of day	Outside Temperature (F)	Inside Car Temperature (F)	+/- Difference
Ford Escape “White”	11:29 am	98.6	131.9	+33.3
Ford Escape “Grey”	11:38 am	88.7	109.4	+20.7

At 70 degrees on a sunny day, after a half hour, the temperature inside a car can exceed 100 degrees. After an hour, it can reach 113 degrees. - Jan Null, adjunct professor at San Francisco State University

When temperatures outside range from 80 degrees to 100 degrees, the temperature inside a car parked in direct sunlight can quickly climb to between 130 to 172.- – American Academy of Pediatrics study (2005)

Introduction

On June 12, an informal temperature assessment was conducted by Safety Certified Industrial Hygienist James Jackson on two county vehicles using a pre-calibrated direct read meter. Refer to table below for results.

the following protocol:

After starting car lower all the windows and turn on the air conditioner setting fan to highest speed to blow out stagnant hot air; this works best when the car is in motion (in fresh air mode), because air-conditioning systems require an immense amount of wind passing over the condenser in order to effectively transfer enough heat, but it is effective when the car is stationary. After 5-10 minutes with the windows down and the fan on, raise windows and operate air conditioner as normal. Once at the desired indoor temperature, switching air conditioner to a recirculation mode helps to stabilize temperature.

park your vehicle, a parking garage or a good size tree can come in handy as this can reduce interior levels by 30 degrees Fahrenheit;

Utilize windshield shades, when used properly they not only protect car interior, but can reduce interior temperature by as much as 50 degrees Fahrenheit;

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER leave children or pets in car regardless of outside temperature.

Assessment conducted by:

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Safety Certified Industrial Hygienist

Article links: www.CDC.gov

Article links: <http://noheatstroke.org/>

GET TO KNOW BOARD POLICY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY C-27

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE, THREATS AND SECURITIES

As an employer, the County of Riverside takes its responsibility to ensure a safe workplace **seriously**. The HR Safety Division is a leader in the use of threat assessment to investigate potential and actual incidents of workplace violence. HR Safety collaborates with other county stakeholders to keep our co-workers safe.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY	
Subject:	Policy Number Page
WORKPLACE VIOLENCE, THREATS AND SECURITIES	C-27 1 of 20
Policy: It is the policy of Riverside County that there is a zero tolerance standard for all threats and violent behavior in the workplace. To ensure a safe workplace and to reduce the risk of violence, all employees should review and understand all provisions of this standard. This includes threats and violent behavior, direct, indirect, implied or actual, from any person, and directed toward any person, occurring at any county facility or in connection with the conduct of county business without regard to location.	2 of 20
PURPOSE: To implement a county wide zero tolerance standard with regard to threats and violent behavior in the workplace.	3 of 20
OBJECTIVE:	4 of 20
1. To assure that all workplace threats and violent behavior are addressed promptly.	
2. To assure the level of physical/facility security in Riverside County workplaces is reasonably sufficient to protect the health and safety of county employees.	
3. To ensure that the County of Riverside is in complete conformance with all Title 8, California Code of Regulations, General Industry Safety Orders and mandates relative to violence in the workplace.	
4. To ensure that all disciplinary action taken for behavior prohibited under this policy is reviewed, evaluated, and administered consistently and equitably throughout the County.	
SCOPE: All county employees.	
I. GENERAL OVERVIEW	
Cal/OSHA requires all employers to develop an Injury, Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) for hazards unique to their place of employment. This IIPP provides the framework for all Riverside County agency, department and special district programs for preventing assaults – specifically, one of the hazards of work in health care and community service, and perhaps the community as a whole. Further, because of the potential for injury to workers, health care and community service organizations must comply with Title 8 of the CCR, Section 3203. This regulation requires an IIPP, which stipulates that responsible persons	
another person at a county workplace or in connection with the conduct of county business.	
2. Any aggressive or hostile behavior that creates a reasonable fear of injury to another person or subjects another individual to emotional distress.	
d. Ensuring that an employee who has been the victim of a job related threat or violence occurring away from county work site(s) does not revisit the scene until an investigation has been completed.	
threat, implied or actual, against co-workers or any other person in connection with county business, are to be subject to legal action by law enforcement authorities and disciplinary actions, up to and including termination of employment.	

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LINK HERE

[Board Policy C-27](#)

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, workplace violence is divided into four categories:



FBI

TYPE I

VIOLENCE BY STRANGERS

TYPE II

VIOLENCE BY CLIENTS

TYPE III

VIOLENCE BY CO-WORKERS

TYPE IV

VIOLENCE BY PERSONAL RELATIONS

GET TO KNOW BOARD POLICY



What should I know about Board Policy C-27?

C-27 is a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy, meaning that the County of Riverside does not tolerate any type of workplace violence committed by or against employees. Employees are prohibited from making threats or engaging in violent activities. The list of zero tolerance behaviors with regard to threats and/or violence shall include, but not be limited to, the following proactive measures and/or prohibited behaviors:

1. Engaging or allowing engagement in violent conduct or making threats of violence, implied, actual, direct, or indirect, or causing actual physical injury to another person at a county workplace or in connection with the conduct of county business.
 2. Any aggressive or hostile behavior that creates a reasonable fear of injury to another person or subjects another individual to emotional distress.
 3. Intentionally damaging County of Riverside property or the property of another.
 4. Being in possession of an offensive or defensive weapon (firearm, club, knife with a blade four inches or longer, etc.) unless specifically required or authorized in the course of employment, at any county facility or in connection with the conduct of county business without regard to location.
 5. Committing acts motivated by, or related to, sexual harassment or domestic violence.
- <https://www.rivcocob.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/C-27.pdf>

If an incident occurs, what should I do as an employee?

- If you, or a co-worker (or a member of the public) need help because of a violent incident at your workplace, immediately call 9-911 or 911 they both work!
- DO NOT engage, walk away to a place of safety
- Notify a supervisor or manager of the incident and complete the Form 2010-1. Be as specific as possible, including direct quotes. Complete and email to the HR Safety Division at safetydivision@rivco.org
- Contact Employee Assistance Services and take advantage of trained counseling services at no cost

If an incident occurs, what should I do as a supervisor?

- Take steps immediately available to provide safety to the victim and others
- Report all incidents to management, County HR and the Safety Division
- Use resources and programs available within the County and the Safety Division to address workplace violence concerns.
- Ensure that all reports of threats & violent behavior, direct, indirect, actual or implied are fully and formally investigated by assisting the Safety Division & HR staff