

SAFETYFIRST

INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY



AHEAD OF
THE CURVE



Safety Management
Services Company, 2016

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Be Safe Out There



Cottingham & Butler
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Parking Lot Collisions

Parking lot collisions are one of the most common types of auto liability claims. Not all of these types of collisions are preventable; however, all drivers can take certain precautions to minimize the risk.

Parking Lot Tips:

- ✓ Give other drivers every opportunity to see your tractor/trailer.
 - When available, park in well-lit areas. This is also important for personal safety.
 - Let conspicuity materials (such as your trailer's reflective tape) do their job by keeping them clean. When between washes, wipe reflective surfaces and vehicle lamps clean with a cloth.
- ✓ Whenever possible, park farther out and away from other vehicles as opposed to squeezing between vehicles and stationary objects. This will reduce the risk of a collision. Additional bonus, the extra walking is good exercise.
- ✓ Slow down to allow yourself to be in a better position in the event of another driver's mistake. Absorb their folly so you don't pay for it in the long run.
- ✓ Be cautious of parking blocks (concrete object at the end of a parking spot). When parking or maneuvering, often drivers wrongly assume their front bumper can clear them.
- ✓ Use the Get Out And Look (G.O.A.L.) approach whenever applicable.
 - When doing this, activate your vehicle hazards/flashers.
 - Check your route of vehicle travel including checking to see if anything has moved or is now in the way.
- ✓ Roll down your windows while pulling forward or backing so you can try to hear what is happening outside of your vehicle.
- ✓ Don't overlook overhead clearance of tree limbs, telephone lines, awnings, etc.
- ✓ Portable lamps, such as mini LED flashlights, can be useful as markers when backing into dimly lit areas.
- ✓ If you are unfamiliar with an area and a good place to park, ask dispatch and other drivers for input.

As with all tasks, make safety your #1 priority.

"If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?" – John Wooden