



Rollover Prevention

Losing control of a tractor-trailer, and rolling it over, is a danger faced by even the best professional driver. The results can be serious for the driver, his/her family, employer, and the public. Fortunately, rollovers are largely preventable.

Gravity is a main factor. A high center of gravity makes tractor-trailers unstable, especially on ramps, curves, and turns. Driving fast or braking hard in these areas increases centrifugal force that pushes sideways against the trailer. Utilizing proper driving techniques to control the amount of centrifugal force significantly decreases the chance of a rollover.

Rollover protective driving techniques:

- **Maintain Proper Speed for Conditions.** Posted speed limits on curves and entry/exit ramps are for passenger cars in perfect weather conditions. Truck drivers should slow another 5-10 mph below the posted limit prior to entering a ramp, curve, or turn to reduce centrifugal force. Enter slowly to avoid braking and then gradually accelerate in the apex, or midpoint of the turn, to complete the maneuver.
- **React Properly to Hazards.** Large curbs can induce a rollover if contacted by tandem wheels. Steer to the outside of a turn, being careful not to cross into the path of oncoming traffic, and perform a "button-hook" maneuver. If done correctly, the trailer tandems will remain far enough from the curb to prevent upsetting the trailer. It can also help prevent vehicles from entering a blind spot and triggering a squeeze crash.
- **Cargo Securement.** Dry freight is more stable than a liquid load, but shifting of the load is always a possibility. Secure cargo before starting any trip and inspect securement during stops, or as required. Liquids will slosh and surge. Keep your load as still as possible by practicing slow starts, gradual stops, and controlled cornering.



Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of Safety."