

SLOWING DOWN



One of the most devastating accidents is a rear end. If you rear end someone you can cause that person serious injuries even if there's little damage to the vehicle. When you're rear ended and you're hauling a trailer in most cases you won't feel the impact, but the trailer will receive structural damage that has to be repaired costing both time and money.

The most effective way to avoid this type of accident is knowing how to slow down in a way that you're communicating your intentions to other drivers and it's not a surprise. You should always warn drivers behind you when you know you'll have to slow down. With just a few light taps on the brake pedal that activates the brake lights you'll warn following drivers. Use the four-way emergency flashers for times when you are driving very slowly like on an uphill.



Under certain situations it's especially important to communicate you're slowing down. Warn other drivers in any of the following situations:

- Hazards ahead: The size of your vehicle makes it very hard for drivers behind you to see hazards ahead. Look farther up the road to spot traffic, give yourself room and if you see a hazard, congestion or traffic that will require slowing down, warn the drivers behind you by flashing your brake lights.
- Tight Turns: Most people don't know understand how trucks are driven and how slow you have to go to make a tight turn. Check your mirrors more often and make sure nobody will try to pass you on the right. Give drivers behind you warning by braking early and slowing gradually, don't stop suddenly.
- Driving Slowly: On an uphill it's very common to go slower than other vehicles if your load is heavy. Alert drivers by turning on your emergency flashers if it is legal to do so in the state you're traveling in.