

SPEED AND CURVES



At North American Transport Services, we strive for safe drivers on the road. That is the reason why our company speed limit is 65 mph. Speed is a major factor in crashes and it affects the braking distance. Let's remember that in order to slow your vehicle down, you have first perception distance, which is the time it takes you to realize there's danger ahead. Then you have reaction time which is the time it takes you to move your foot from the accelerator to the brake pedal, and finally there's stopping distance which is the time it takes to slow your vehicle down and it's directly related to your speed. The faster you're traveling the longer it will take to slow down.

This is even more relevant in curves. You must remember that the speed limit posted on signs is for vehicles, and you should always take an exit ramp or a curve slower. I always recommend my drivers go 15 mph under the speed posted on the sign on a ramp and a curve.

If you take a curve too fast, two things can happen. Either the tires can lose traction and continue straight ahead and you skid off the road or the tires may keep their traction and the vehicle rolls over. Neither is a good outcome, always adjust your speed for curves and choose a gear that will let you accelerate slightly in the curve. This will help you keep control.

It's well known that trucks have a high center of gravity which can cause a roll over at the posted speed limit for a curve. Slow to a safe speed before you enter the curve and avoid braking during a curve because it is easier to lock the wheels and cause a skid if you do so

