



ROLLOVER ACCIDENTS



This type of accident occurs predominately on curves, turns, or exit ramps. Keep in mind that when you're moving forward, your vehicle's weight and speed generate a force in a downward and forward direction and when you take a turn or curve that force moves to the side of the vehicle. If the sideways force is excessive the vehicle will rollover.

Every truck driver knows the center of gravity of a truck is much higher than a vehicle and that's what increases our chances of a rollover. Make sure that when you close the doors of the trailer after getting loaded you check how high up that trailer is loaded. The higher it is, the more careful you need to be on ramps, this also applies if you're transporting liquids. In order to prevent a rollover it is also a very good idea to secure that load with straps or load locks to prevent shifting of the cargo.

As a professional truck driver it's imperative to know that ramps and curves are designed and have speed limits set for cars not large vehicles, therefore your safe speed on a curve, ramp or turn should be about 10 miles under the speed limit posted on the sign. Besides controlling your speed, you should also be at the appropriate gear on the curve, don't attempt to slow down during the curve or turn and make sure you're already traveling in the correct lane so you don't make any lane changes during the curve.

Since we're still experiencing winter conditions, keep in mind that you need to reduce your speed considerably more if there's ice and snow.

According to statistics provided by the FMCSA, over 78% of rollovers involve driver error. Please consider the following tips to avoid experiencing this type of accident:

- **Distractions:** in order to stay in control of your vehicle and respond in a timely manner to any road hazards you must pay attention to your driving duties, remain alert and attentive. Check your mirrors constantly and look as far ahead as possible. Avoid any distractions like having a cell phone conversation even with a hands free device, eating and changing the radio station.
- **Speed:** If you maintain a safe following distance and you keep your speed under control you will minimize your risks dramatically, especially during the winter. When you're speeding you reduce your time to respond to a hazard and will most likely need to do a hard brake or deviate suddenly which increases your chance of a rollover.
- **Overcorrecting:** if your trailer drifts off the paved road you must slow down and keep going straight until the trailer returns to the truck's path. Rollovers often result when the driver tries to overcorrect the rig back to the pavement.
- **Weather conditions:** Learn to identify high risk areas on the road like black ice and reduce your speed. If you're the only one on the road, then you should probably pull over and wait for the condition of the road to improve.