

Truck Drivers – Safe Operating Procedures



Best Practice Series BP-40



Many surface haulage fatalities have occurred from:

- **Drivers attempting to jump** from a truck that is out of control;
- **Trucks going over the edge** at dump points due to overtravel or the collapse of the edge of the slope;
- **Drivers being run over after parking** their truck when the truck rolled; or
- **Loss of control** due to equipment failure.

Truck drivers should consider the following points to be prepared to avoid or minimize accidents.

- **Have you received training for the piece of equipment you are operating?**
- **Do you know what to do in case of:**
 - Runaway/Rollover
 - Engine failure
 - Brake failure
 - Fire
 - Tire Failure
 - Steering Problem
- **Always wear your seat belt.** It's perhaps the single most important thing you can do to avoid being injured or killed.

- **Don't rely on a berm to stop your vehicle.** The typical axle-height berm will not, by itself, prevent a haul truck from leaving the roadway.
- **Test brakes** before going down a grade.
- **If you lose control** of the truck or roll it over, **don't attempt to jump free of the truck.** Staying in the cab with your seat belt fastened is your best chance to avoid serious injury.
- **Know and follow** safe loading and dumping procedures.
- **Do not drive** if you are **tired** or **drowsy**.
- **Do not drive** if you are **under the influence of drugs or alcohol.**
- **Know and follow** traffic patterns and rules.
- **Reduce your speed where conditions warrant**, such as at steeper or longer grades, around curves, at night, in congested areas, and under wet, snowy, icy, or foggy conditions.
- **Communicate**, such as by sounding the horn, before passing.
- **Keep a safe following distance.**
- **Follow safe parking procedures.** When parked on a grade, the wheels should be adequately chocked and turned toward the bank.
- **If not sure of any procedure**, such as a traffic pattern or a dumping practice, **stop and ask.**
- **Report any unusual or potentially dangerous roadway conditions.**

Arrive Home Alive

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