



Trucking: Safe Navigation Through Construction Zones

Navigating through a construction zone safely is difficult even for the most skilled drivers. One of the major causes of accidents in construction zones is not paying attention to change, which can be through signage, traffic, changes to the roadway, etc. Minimize distractions and have your full attention on the road. Also, during the pre-trip planning research, note construction zones and be prepared to take extra caution during that portion of the trip. If possible, choose an alternative route when there is a significant amount of construction in one area or stretch of highway.

Things to consider:

- It is important for truck drivers to heed sign directions such as merging, slowing or a lane curving sharply; and to do so as soon as they are seen since maneuvering a large truck can take more time than a passenger vehicle so adjusting ahead of the change is critical
- Be alert to aggressive drivers in the area that may be trying to get around in and out of traffic; being aware of who is in or out of a blind spot is essential in these situations
- Many times in construction zones cars drive bumper-to-bumper with no buffer zone for stopping; although moving with traffic and getting through the area is important, leave generous room to stop if cars were to start slowing
- When roadways narrow pay particular attention to vehicles in the passing lane; give a safe distance to those that drift onto the center line in these areas
- Stay alert to construction workers, vehicles and heavy equipment that may be entering or exiting the work zone
- If unexpected construction pops up and causes a delay, wait until outside of the work area to inform others of a change in arrival time