

Driving Company Trucks Field Training

When driving a company truck on the jobsite or off the jobsite you must remember to **Follow All State and Local Laws**. Just because you are working on the road does not give you any power to not follow the law. Think about it this way, if you are sharing the road with the public, you cannot do anything they are not allowed to do.

1. Being in a construction vehicle with your lights on in a construction zone does not allow you to do anything special. You must follow the same laws as every other vehicle driver on the road.
2. You cannot pull into a gore or on a shoulder and make a u-turn. You cannot cross open traffic lanes – even if no one is coming. If a regular driver cannot do it – neither can you.
3. If you are in a left turn only lane – you must only turn left. You cannot turn right, or you cannot go straight. Your flashing lights do not give you any special considerations. Follow the law. Same goes for a right turn only lane.
4. The lights on our vehicles are to help drivers see us. They do not allow you to do anything special. It just gives you more visibility.
5. If you do something against the law, and cause an accident, it doesn't matter how many flashing lights you have or what you were told to do – YOU ARE WRONG. You can go to jail.

In short, if you are on a roadway that is shared by the traveling public, you must follow all normal typical state and local laws. You must follow all signs and markings. **It is very simple, if the public is on the same open lanes that you are on, then you must follow the same laws that they follow.**

When pulling out of a traffic lane into a closed lane or into a jobsite:

1. Slow down, put your caution blinkers on. Give people a chance to slow down or move over. Don't make sudden moves.
2. Give plenty of notice that you are going to pull off the road or turn. Don't wait until you are at the turn-off.
3. Use your signals and flashing lights.

4. Just because you are driving into a jobsite or closed roadway, you still must follow all laws. Yellow lights or flashers do not allow you to do anything special.
5. If it is dangerous **“DON’T DO IT”**. Go down and turn around, go to the next crossover or do something else. Do not put the public in danger.

When merging into public traffic from a closed lane or jobsite:

1. You do not have the right of way, the public does. You are the one getting into traffic. They have all the rights. They are allowed to continue on the open road unobstructed. You must wait until it is safe.
2. Wait until you have plenty of time to pull out without the public having to slow down or do any maneuver. Remember how slow you are going to be and how fast they are traveling.
3. Don’t trust your mirrors. Turn around and look. Take a few seconds to look down the road and judge the speed that the vehicles are going. Ask yourself, can I get out without the traffic slowing down?
4. One of the dumbest things one of our employees told me was “I saw that guy before I pulled out in front of his vehicle, he was speeding and shouldn’t have been going so fast, I made him slow down”. That kind of thing can cost our company millions and can cause someone to die. That dead person could be you.

Changing lanes:

1. Many of our accidents happen when changing lanes. **Think Ahead**, plan ahead, don’t wait until the last minute then try to change lanes. Give yourself time to see any traffic around you and either wait for it or plan your move.
2. If you’re changing lanes (even with your flashers on), you do not have the right of way. You must still give way to traffic. They are not required to let you move over or slow down. It’s all on you.
3. If you can’t move over when you need to or you can’t make the exit you want, don’t worry. Go down to the next exit and turn around, no one is rushing you. We are never in that kind of a hurry.
4. Don’t just do a quick look in your mirrors. Take the time to make sure its safe to move.

Never cross lanes of traffic.

We have seen accidents where our drivers tried to cross traffic lanes because they did not want to go to the next intersection or turn around. Our drivers have waited on the side of the road then tried to cross over traffic to the median. Each time it has resulted in an accident.

1. If the traveling public cannot do it neither can you. Go to the next intersection and make your turn.
2. Driving in the median can confuse people. It is not normal, so they do not know how to react to you.
3. U-turns are not allowed.

Slower traffic to the right.

State law tells us that slower traffic should always move to the right. Even if you are driving at the speed limit. If someone, anyone is wanting to go faster than you, move to the right.

NO CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING

Nothing else needs to be said. This is company policy and in many cases the law.

Avoid backing.

If you are at an intersection DO NOT BACK UP. You cannot see what is behind you. Your blind spot is too large. Always find a way to pull forward.

Never back up when at a stop sign or red light. NEVER

Never back up on a public roadway. If the road is open to the public, you must follow all laws.

Avoid backing for any reason. Backing on construction sites is the #1 cause of death for highway construction workers.

Position your vehicle where you can pull forward and not back up.

Use a spotter.

Tie down your loads.

Too many times items have bounced out or blown out of a truck or 16 foot trailer. We have lost tools, type 3 barricades, forms, rebar, gas cans, plastic barrels, and other items. Each time they have caused damage.

Items must be secured. You must tie down or secure everything in your truck or trailer.

This is a state law.

Pulling a small trailer or air compressor.

1. You are required to use safety chains on your trailer. They must be crossed and connected to the truck.
2. After hitching up your trailer you must use a safety pin to secure the latch.
3. You are required by OSHA and the State to inspect your trailer before pulling it. That means tires and load. We have even seen jack-hammers bounced out of air compressors while driving down the road.

When is a commercial license required?

Anytime a vehicle is registered at 26,001 lbs. it requires a commercial license.

Anytime a vehicle that is registered at 26,001 lbs. is a water truck it requires not only a commercial license but also a tank endorsement.

Anytime a vehicle is registered at 26,001 lbs. and has a tank but also hauls oil for hot-mix asphalt it requires not only a commercial license but a tank endorsement and hazardous materials endorsement.

If the vehicle is one piece, like a water truck, it requires a commercial B class license.

If the vehicle is two pieces, like a tractor trailer it requires a commercial A class license.

You are never rushed so that you must break the law. You will never be told to rush. Take the time necessary to drive safely and follow all laws.