



RISK REMINDER

March 2025

Name: _____ Company: _____

Preventing Lane Change Collisions

Trucks require more space to maneuver and can cause more damage in the event of a crash. If your truck collides with another vehicle, it can set off a chain reaction that may include several vehicles, considerable damage and severe injuries.

When driving a truck, one action that has a high risk of leading to an accident is making a lane change. Follow these tips to help prevent lane change crashes:

- If driving on the highway, know your exit number ahead of time.
- Talk to dispatch before your trip about any potential delays, construction or detours that might affect you.
- Inspect mirrors to ensure they are clean and aligned properly.
- Limit lane changes by staying in one lane as much as possible.
- Before making a lane change, observe traffic conditions around you. If you are not able to execute a quick pass, it can affect many other vehicles and the overall flow of traffic.
- Obey all traffic laws and avoid speeding.
- Do not follow too closely and always maintain a 10 second following distance.
- Avoid distractions such as talking on your cellphone!
- Activate your turn signal well in advance, and be aware that drivers in your blind spot may not see it.
- Leave your signal on and check your side mirrors multiple times to make sure the lane is clear.
- Check your blind spots by slowing down to allow other vehicles to appear in your mirror, or by using the “lean and look” method.
- Once you believe that it is safe to make a lane change, do so slowly and continue checking your mirrors throughout the maneuver.
- Do not be forceful. If you are not able to make a lane change before your exit, get off at the next one. **A delay is far less costly than a crash!**



Lane change crashes can be costly and dangerous for everyone involved.

True or False:

1. All truck drivers should assume all drivers can see their turn signal before a lane change?
2. Drivers should be forceful and make quick lane changes?

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