SMART DRIVER® April 2020

Preventing Crashes with Stationary Objects

Hitting stationary objects are preventable crashes. The key to preventing such accidents is to recognize the hazards that can lead to a collision with a stationary object and take appropriate defensive measures. Read the information below and ask yourself if there are actions you can take to improve your driving skills and reduce the risk of hitting a stationary object.

Recognize the Hazards

Environment
Accidents involving stationary objects often occur in parking lots at truck stops, rest areas, and customer facilities. Bridges, low-hanging wires, overhangs, and signs are additional hazards if the driver is not aware of the height of his/her vehicle. Likewise, adverse weather affects visibility and a driver's ability to identify hazards.

Equipment
Large trucks have several blind spots; these spots make it difficult to manage the space around the truck even at low speeds. Also, dirty, damaged, or inoperable mirrors hinder a driver's ability to identify hazards.

Personal Behaviours
A critical factor in accidents involving stationary objects is driver behavior. Distractions inside the cab and out are a risk any time the vehicle is in motion. Likewise, failing to inspect the area around the truck (and above) for stationary objects in the vehicle's path can lead to accidents.

Know the Defense

Before Parking
- Slow down when entering a parking area; a crash negates all haste.
- Avoid parking near stationary objects, if possible.
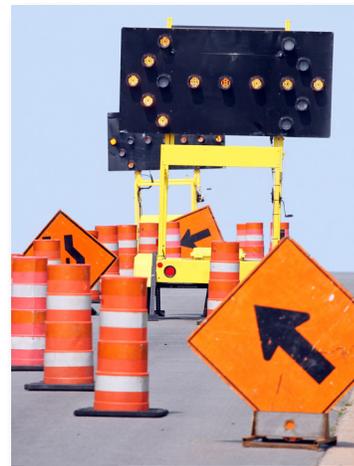- Focus on driving and avoid distractions, like talking on a cell phone, even at low speeds.
- Try to time deliveries during non-peak traffic times.
- Know the height of your truck and be mindful of low-hanging signs, overhangs, etc.

Before Backing
- Remember GOAL; *get out and look* behind the truck to ensure it is clear of hazards.
- Use a spotter and traffic control. If you lose sight of your spotter STOP.
- Use your mirrors and follow agreed-upon commands with your spotter.
- Roll down the windows and turn off all devices to limit noise distractions.

Before Driving Away
- Walk around the truck to identify potential hazards.
- Plan your exit route to ensure there are no hazards in your path.
- Set out orange cones to protect your exit route if a wide turn is needed.

While Driving
- Know the height of your tractor and trailer.
- When route planning, do not rely solely on GPS for route restrictions – use your eyes and sound judgment to make a safe decision, even if it means finding an alternate route.

Note: These lists are not intended to be all-inclusive.

Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____ Emp/Unit #: _____

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

1. GOAL means before backing, "Get Out And Look". ☐ True ☐ False

2. A driver can 100% prevent hitting a stationary object. ☐ True ☐ False

3. All GPS systems are always 100% accurate to follow. ☐ True ☐ False

Recommended Videos

At Old Republic Canada, we value safety and education. Our online Learning Library is a tool our customers can use to enhance their training efforts and keep safety on the forefront of their employees' minds. Below are some additional titles that can be accessed on any mobile device, computer, or tablet. Simply go to http://orican.infinit-i.net to get started.

Driving Skills (Basic):

- Approaching Intersections
- Backing a Rig Safely
- Distracted Driver: Cell Phones
- Driving Through Work Zones

Scan the code to go straight to our online video library!

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