

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH (February 2019)

REDUCE SPEED ON CURVES

Normally following the speed limit is a good thing, but in trucking, following the speed limit can actually lead to a dangerous situation. This is particularly true on curves, and when entering on and off-ramps. The speed limit signs you see for entering curves and off-ramps is actually the safe speed for cars entering a curve. Trucks and in particular tractor-trailers should always get into the habit of entering curves at 5-10 mph under the posted speed limit.

The high center of gravity a truck has makes it more susceptible to tipping over if a curve is entered at too high a rate of speed. In fact, almost 95% of all truck accidents involving a rollover are due to trucks entering a curve too fast. As soon as you see a speed sign for an approaching curve, you should be slowing down before you enter the curve.

You never want to enter a curve too fast and find yourself in a situation in which you have to hit the brakes while in a curve. If you hit the brakes in a curve, you will almost certainly rollover. Don't think coasting will slow you down enough either. This could still mean the speed of your truck is still too fast to negotiate a curve. The result would be to ride the outer edge of the curve and go off the road.

Remember, you want to enter the curve at such a rate of speed that you will want to be able to accelerate out of the curve. This will ensure you have entered the curve at the proper rate of speed to negotiate it safely. Don't be in such a hurry that you are taking chances by driving too fast. There is no freight or appointment so important that you must do anything unsafely while you are behind the wheel.