Infection control researchers keep coming to the same conclusion: We don’t wash our hands often enough or well enough.

The words “Your truck has rolled over” bring immediate concern about not only the potential of human and equipment damage but also of a personal failure. Although truck rollovers occur in other industries, the inherent dangers are much more prevalent in the delivery of ready-mixed concrete. It’s simply a matter of physics. Unlike other types of delivery vessels, a mixer truck carries a moving load that increases centrifugal force on turns. And when this force combines with the height of the center of gravity of many mixer trucks, it’s easy to determine that mixers are particularly prone to tipping unless the driver is especially careful.

ROLLOVER CAUSES

There are two aspects to the increase in rollovers in the concrete industry. First, the ready-mix industry has been growing at a fast pace. Due to this growth, producers have had to recruit an increased number of inexperienced drivers. Many trainees have never been exposed to the tough jobsite conditions common in every ready-mix delivery. And stretching out their learning curve is the fact that many new drivers have been recruited from parts of the trucking industry that use smaller and lighter delivery vehicles.

Another common concern is that the new trucks often have the same driving feel as that of sport utility vehicles. That’s because improved driver comfort has been rated as an important factor in driver retention.

Despite these external factors, drivers must be held responsible for avoiding rollovers. By following basic good driving practices and practical well-developed company rules, drivers can all but eliminate any accidents. Many safety experts feel that the most common driver errors that lead to rollovers are excessive speed for conditions and failure to scan jobsites for danger areas.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON DRIVER ERRORS IN ROLLOVER ACCIDENTS?

- Driving too fast for conditions
- Unsafe cornering or turning speeds
- Attempting an abrupt and unplanned maneuver
- Improperly pressurized rear axle settings
- Failure to follow the appointed route to the pour site
- Driving too close to the edge of the road
- Not taking time to scan the jobsite prior to positioning for discharging
WAYS TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE SHOULD A ROLLOVER OCCUR

- Wear your seat belt.
- Keep the driver cab safe from debris.
- Affix a driver “ditty” bag to the cab wall or floor to store clipboards, lunch boxes, etc.
- Keep a spill-containment kit on each truck for proactive cleanup of any fluid leaks.

HOW TO AVOID ROLLOVERS?

- When taking a turn too fast and you sense a sudden load shift, brake slowly.
- When positioning the truck for discharge, make sure that the plane of the truck is as close to perpendicular to a steep drop-off as possible (remember 1 to 1).
- Experience the difference in drum motion caused by lightweight mixes vs. loads of normal weight.
- Add warnings on delivery tickets as a reminder when loads are batched with lightweight aggregate.
- Slow down on inclines and keep the truck in the proper gear for conditions.
- Follow the delivery ticket instructions at all times.
- Keep a safe following distance behind the next vehicle.
- Drive 10 miles per hour slower than the posted speed limit on curves and highway ramps.
- Keep an eye on your rear wheels while taking turns. Remember that the driver and trailer wheels travel approximately 6–8 feet inside the turning radius.
- Stay away from the shoulder.
- Call your supervisor or dispatcher when you are uncertain about jobsite conditions.
- Know the proper trailer axle pressure requirements for each type of truck.

Check the trailer axle pressure before leaving the yard on each load. Too much pressure will reduce traction on the driver axle and thus decrease the rollover threshold; too little pressure will affect the steering of the front tires.
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### ROLLOVER QUIZ

Name: ____________________

1. _______ (True or False) Over pressurizing a booster axle can shift the center of gravity and cause a rollover.

2. _______ (True or False) A Ready Mix truck is more likely to rollover in sweeping right turn than a sweeping left turn.

3. _______ What causes the most injuries when a truck rollover happens?
   a. Not wearing a seat belt
   b. Broken glass
   c. Flying objects in the cab of the truck
   d. Hitting the steering wheel

4. _______ (True or False) A Ready Mix truck is more likely to rollover carrying high slump concrete because of a more fluid center of gravity

5. _______ Which of the following are some of the most common driver errors resulting in a mixer rollover?
   a. Driving too fast for conditions
   b. Unsafe cornering or turning speeds
   c. Attempting an abrupt and unplanned maneuver
   d. All of the above

6. _______ (True or False) Knowing your route to the job site can prevent a rollover.