

Safety Matters **Trucking**

Provided by: Reseco Insurance Advisors

Avoiding Right Turn Squeeze Crashes

Large commercial vehicles can be challenging to maneuver, particularly on residential and city streets. Taking a turn too sharply or widely can lead to costly accidents and serious injuries.

One common type of accident is the right turn squeeze crash, which occurs when a truck driver makes a wide right turn, leaving too much distance between the truck and the curb. When doing so, other drivers on the road may try to squeeze past the truck and could end up getting their vehicle caught underneath the truck's trailer.

Be Prepared

In order to make right turns as safe as possible, drivers should be aware of their environments and the potential challenges that they may impose. For example, a particularly narrow intersection can make right turns especially dangerous.

It is also important that the vehicles and trailers are in proper working order. A broken turn signal or a lack of adequate mirrors will make any type of driving unsafe.

Turning Techniques

There are many steps to making a turn. As a truck driver, you have a responsibility for not only your own safety, but that of pedestrians and other drivers as well. When making a right turn, adhere to the following steps in order to make the process as safe as possible:

1. Prepare for the turn by moving into the right-hand lane as early as you can.

2. Activate your turn signal well in advance, and reduce your speed.
3. As you approach the intersection, observe the area and make sure that you will be able to safely complete the turn.
4. When beginning your turn, keep the rear of your trailer in the right-hand lane and close to the curb.
5. Avoid swinging wide to the left or crossing into other lanes.
6. Use your mirrors to check for other vehicles, pedestrians or obstructions.
7. Never back up when completing a turn. If you are unable to finish a turn, wait for other traffic to clear to do so.

Safety First

As a driver, safety should be your top priority. If you find that a turn may not be possible, it is better to take a slight detour and ensure that you will be able to get to your destination safely. A small delay is far less costly than an accident.

If you have any questions about making right turns safely, talk to your supervisor.

