

Safety Bulletin

Incident Photos



Incident Description

Employee was driving with 9.5 yards of concrete. Employee states that he was looking in the mirrors at a XXXXX truck that was having engine problems and emitting flames through the exhaust stack about a quarter mile behind him. He had passed the other truck and wanted to pull off to advise the driver that continuing to drive that truck wasn't advisable (other driver couldn't be raised on the two-way). He started to guide the mixer to the side while continuing to check his mirrors to see the truck behind him. As he was not paying attention to the road ahead of him the mixer truck crossed a narrow thirty inch shoulder and left the road. When he realized this driver stepped on the brake (left skid marks on the side of the road of 25 feet) and turned the steering wheel to the left (towards the road) before the truck was pulled gradually into the ditch. The truck continued along the ditch for approximately 30 feet, and came to rest with the passenger side of the truck sinking into the ground approx. 2 feet. The mixer truck came to an upright stop in the ditch, and then tipped over onto the passenger side of the truck.

On a positive note, there were no injuries to the driver and minimal damage to the truck. The driver followed company policy by wearing a seat belt and keeping the cab free from debris. Drum speed was estimated to be approximately 1 r.p.m.

Best Practices

Avoid taking your eyes off the road.

Keeping your eyes on the road is one crucial requirement to operating your truck safely. Looking away from the road even for only a few seconds could put you in a dangerous situation. Studies show that when driving at 65 mph your vehicle travels 190 feet in two seconds. If you need to check on something after you leave the plant, find a safe place to get off the road before doing so. **Never let your truck leave solid ground or go off the road.**

Stay alert: Part of driving defensively is staying alert to what is happening around you. Establish and maintain your cushion of safety — not just some of the time — but as your normal style of driving. **Never take chances while driving your mixer, as you have very little room for error.** Stay Alert and Don't Become Distracted or Fixated on Anything.

- Key 1 AIM HIGH IN STEERING®
- Key 2 GET THE BIG PICTURE®
- Key 3 KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING®
- Key 4 LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT®
- Key 5 MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU®

If you go off the roadway, you must make good (and fast) decisions:

- HOLD ON to the wheel and DO NOT make any sudden steering movements
- DO NOT slam on your brakes

