

Avoid Low Clearance Collisions

Overhead collisions are preventable and very costly! Follow these tips to avoid collisions.



Know the height of your trailer or cargo on a flatbed trailer when loaded, partially loaded, and when hooked to a new tractor. A partially loaded or empty trailer may be higher than when loaded. Use of different tractors can also cause variance in the trailer height.

Measure. Don't assume the height of your vehicle or load. Measure and don't guess.

Watch for warning signs indicating a low clearance is ahead and notice the posted height. Be aware that warning signs are not always present.

Do not rely entirely on posted heights at bridges, overpasses, etc. If the roadway was recently repaved, the posted height may be incorrect. Snow and packed ice will also lower the clearance height.

Look for surface irregularities, such as potholes or storm drains, which could cause the tractor or trailer to rock or tilt and strike an overhead object, another vehicle or stationary object. Trailers, especially when empty, could "bounce" under an overpass due to rough roads, causing the trailer to strike the bridge. Slow down to minimize bounce.

Watch for trees and overhead wires, especially in non-commercial areas, that may be hanging low over the roadway.

Be cautious on ascending ramps or driveways. Slow down to be sure the vehicle will not rise up and strike an overhead object.

Approach low clearances very slowly. Be prepared to stop if necessary.

Stop and check the clearance if needed. Get out of the cab to measure. Use extreme caution if this becomes necessary.

Make sure building overhead doors are fully opened before you enter or exit. Ask the person controlling the door not to start closing it before your unit has cleared the doorway.

