



Prevent Truck Jackknives on Slick Roads

The National Safety Council offers the following driver safety tips to help prevent truck jackknives.



Do not use the trailer hand valves to slow down or stop. This can cause the trailer wheels to lock up and slide sideways.

Do not become complacent or overconfident with your equipment or yourself.



Make sure your vehicle load is distributed evenly to maintain vehicle stability and balance.

Brake before a turn, not after you go into one.

Decelerate slowly and brake smoothly.

If the unit starts to slide, press in the clutch to get all wheels rotating equally.

Check the mirrors when you stop on ice, snow or in rain. If the trailer begins to move out of line, release the brakes and straighten the rig before you brake again.

Start your correction quickly. Your chance of recovery lessens as you approach an angle of 15 degrees.

Jackknives result from uncontrolled braking and driving too fast for conditions. Slow down to give yourself additional time to react.

If either the tractor or trailer does not have ABS and the other does, the unit without ABS will have a higher degree of causing a jackknife because its wheels will lock up during hard braking, while the ABS equipped unit's wheels keep rotating.

