



SPACE MANAGEMENT

THE VALUE OF SPACE MANAGEMENT

Managing the space around your rig is key to keeping you, and those around you as safe as possible. Maintaining a cushion of space gives you extra time to react when something goes wrong around you.

HOW TO MAINTAIN A CUSHION OF SPACE

There are six sides to your rig. Your left and right, front, and back, and above and below.

The Front

Easiest to monitor – maintain at least 60-100 feet of space

Accidents – most collisions for tractor trailers occur because they cannot stop in time – caused from lack of space in front of the rig.

Inclement weather – you need at least one second for each 10 feet of vehicle length when you are traveling below 40 mph. When traveling faster add an additional second for safety – create more space between you and the vehicle in front when the roads are slippery.

A quick tip – watch the vehicle in front of you, choose a landmark, wait for the vehicle to pass it, then count until you reach that marker

The Back

Challenging to monitor – there are still things you can do. You will not be able to stop tailgaters. Be a professional driver – decrease the speed and stay to the right lane, when you are going uphill – heavier vehicles are more likely to be tailgated. Tips for tailgaters – increase the following distance between the car in front of you, stay to the right and avoid quick changes, if you are going to turn signal early, never speed up or tap on the brakes. This will create hazards for you and the other drivers. Stay centered in your lane and avoid driving next to others and maintain the cushion to your sides.

The space below – in and out of the woods – mud, snow, stumps, rocks, logging debris, railroad crossings – you can become hung up – loaded trucks can decrease the space below and so take extreme caution.

The space above – bridges, overpasses, wires and trees, frost heaves, snow, condition and grade of the road, uneven roads, road repairs can all impact the space above, the stability of your load, and can change the clearances above, and can create hazards for you, what you are hauling and your safety while driving your rig.

PROPER CLEARANCE

Bridges – know the height of you rig and check your routes before heading out.

Overpasses – know your height and check routes before heading out.

Wires and Trees- have a spotter if you think you are cutting it too close or have the wires blanketed or de-energized

Never – make assumptions – not always are posted signs correct – changes in the road beneath the bridge or overpass can shift or increase because of paving. Or that it is safe because you have done it before. Packed snow can change your rig to unsafe heights.

Backing- check the entire path you will be backing into for height clearance. Get out and look for branches, wires, canopies, and anything that may hit the top of your truck or load.

Coast to coast – height limits vary -On the west coast, height clearances are 14 feet on average. In the middle of the United States there are a few states that have height clearances of 14ft. 5in. ON the east coast height clearances are 13ft. 6in.

PROCEDURES TO SAFELY MANAGE SPACE DURING TURNS

Right turns

Travel – out straight and turn late

Keep close to the curb – This will keep drivers from trying to sneak up on your right.

Do not swing left before going right – This may give other drivers the perception that you are turning left and cause them to sup up on the right side of your rig and possibly cause a crash.

Left turns

Intersection – Make sure you have reached the center of the intersection before beginning to turn.

Always – Always choose the outside turn lane to prohibit cars from coming up on your right and possibly causing an accident.

Remember – Remember “out straight, turn late”.

U-turns and Tight Turns

U-turns and tight turns create the greatest risk of jackknifing. Do not turn too sharply. Do not hold the turn too long.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Team Safe Trucking’s mission is to reduce accidents through enhanced driver training and effective fleet management and to recruit new, safety-focused drivers to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.