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 Fixed 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
• LOOK IN THE DIRECTION YOU ARE GOING and
• RIDE IT OUT on the shoulder of the road
• Slowly allow THE TRUCK TO THROTTLE DOWN and SLOWLY COME TO A STOP

Staying on the shoulder, braking steadily and controlling the truck may be the only answer.

Don’t panic and over correct. Consider riding it out on the shoulder.

• **Narrow Roads:** When traveling on narrow roads stay as close to the center as possible. Riding too close to the sides of the road, especially if they are wet, can be a hazardous situation. If one of your wheels leaves the road surface brake smoothly and hold the steering wheel steady. Stop the truck.

• **Paved Country Road Shoulders:** Country road shoulders are often weak and could collapse under the weight of the truck. Stay away from the edge.

Unfamiliar areas can lead to potential hazards:
Keep in mind that we are all inexperienced drivers when we’re driving in unfamiliar areas. Speeds should be considerably lower to compensate for roads and terrain that is unknown to us.

**Respect your truck:** The very first thing you should learn about your truck is to respect it at all times. Respect your abilities as a professional driver but don’t become over confident. Even the most experienced drivers can get into trouble if they allow themselves to become complacent. Due to the high center of gravity a ready mix truck will lay over if the driver does not stay calm and handle the truck within the guidelines that they have learned through training and experience. The best way to avoid an accident is to stay focused at all times on the task at hand. As a professional driver, you must know the limits of your truck and never exceed them.

**Use your Seat Belt at All Times:** Over 70% of people involved in serious MVA’s are able to walk away with minor or no injuries due to the use of safety restraints such as a seatbelt.

**Helping a Fellow Driver:** As a professional driver, making sound decisions is a key component to sending everyone home safely at the end of the day. Although your training is vital, it’s how you apply that knowledge that makes the difference in an emergency.

We should always assist a fellow driver or XXXXX employee, customer etc., in need of help or guidance but here’s the catch….

*Always, make sure safety is your number one priority and value when providing any type of assistance. Be sure that the scene is safe before you assist.*

**Safety Brings you Home**

Sign In: ( please print legibly )

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TRAINER ____________________________   DATE__________________________