

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

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RULES OF...OFF-THE-ROAD

Ready Mixed Concrete Trucks and Driving Off-Road

Every day, tens of thousands of mixer drivers leave public roads to maneuver their vehicles through various off-road conditions. From gravel roads to residential backyards, from hilly terrain to muddy and uneven construction sites, these off-road excursions present a multitude of safety related issues for ready mixed concrete mixer drivers.



Mixer Truck Off-Road Driving Considerations

Mixer truck off-road driving safety issues can be reduced through regular driver training sessions. Training should be focused on how to recognize hazards before a driver ever leaves a public street and policies to follow if issues arise. Whenever off-road, slow down, make sure all liftable axles are raised and scan the ground ahead. Always check with the contractor or owner of the property and ask them about any hazards you might encounter. Look for hazards such as construction debris, uneven ground, and wet spots. Be on the alert for workers moving around. Stay away from excavations (one-to-one rule). Be especially mindful of newly constructed haul roads that may not be properly compacted. On sandy or soft conditions, the tire pressure may need to be reduced. **When you are not sure about what's ahead, get out and look!**

Actions

Actions that can help reduce safety related issues when driving off-road:

- Think first and slow down
- Always wear your seatbelt when the mixer truck is moving
- Check site conditions before leaving public roads
- Always use a trained spotter (and only one) when backing
- Lower your window (at least slightly)
- Be mindful of unmarked railroad crossings
- Make sure extension chutes are secured
- Look out for low power lines and overhanging tree limbs
- Be especially careful in wet or icy conditions
- Be careful on hills and do not drive on hill sides
- Increase vehicle following distance in dry, dusty conditions that limit sight
- Communicate with other drivers about changing site conditions and alert drivers about hazards



Resources

For more information on mixer truck off-road considerations please follow the links below:

NRMCA: [Mixer Truck Driver's Manual](#)

NRMCA: [Concrete Delivery Professional \(CDP\) Program](#)

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