

## Accident Prevention Notes

- **Preventable Accident**
  - “a preventable accident is one which occurs because the driver fails to act in a reasonably expected manner to prevent it. In judging whether the driver’s actions were reasonable, one seeks to determine whether the driver drove defensively and demonstrated an acceptable level of skill and knowledge. The judgment of what is reasonable can be based on a company-adopted definition, thus establishing a goal for its safety management programs.”
- **Top 10 Reasons Accidents Happen:**
  - Failure of truck driver to adhere to or obey the rules of the road
  - Speeding or unsafe acceleration
  - Under-inflated tires on big rig trucks
  - Cargo shifting or improperly loaded commercial trucks
  - Truck driver fatigue
  - Truck driver substance abuse
  - Improper braking or deceleration
  - Poor truck maintenance or shoddy repair work
  - Vehicular blind spots
  - Careless or reckless driving
- **Types of preventable accidents:**
  - **At Intersections**
    - **preventable if:**
    - driver failed to control speed so that he/she could stop within available sight distance
    - driver failed to check cross-traffic and wait for it to clear before entering intersection
    - driver pulled out from side street in the face of oncoming traffic
    - driver collided with person, vehicle, or object while making right or left turn
    - driver collided with vehicle making turn in front of him/her
  - **Striking Other Vehicle in Rear**
    - **preventable if:**
    - driver failed to maintain safe following distance and have his/her vehicle under control
    - driver failed to keep track of traffic conditions and did not slow down
    - driver failed to ascertain whether vehicle ahead was moving slowly, stopped, or slowing down for any reason
    - driver misjudged rate of overtaking
    - driver came too close before pulling out to pass

- driver failed to wait for vehicle ahead to move into clear before starting up
- driver failed to leave sufficient room for passing vehicle to get safely back in line
  
- **Sideswipe/Head-On Collision**
  - **preventable if:**
  - driver was not entirely in his/her proper lane of travel
  - driver did not pull to right and slow down or stop for vehicle encroaching on his/her lane of travel when such action could have been taken without additional danger
  - driver was passing slower traffic near an intersection and had to make a sudden stop
  - driver made sudden stop to park, load or unload
  - vehicle was improperly parked
  - driver rolled back into vehicle behind them while starting on a grade
  
- **Squeeze Plays and Shutouts**
  - **preventable if:**
  - driver failed to yield right-of-way when necessary to avoid accident
  
- **Backing**
  - **preventable if:**
  - driver backed up when backing could have been avoided by better planning of his/her route
  - driver backed into traffic stream when such backing could have been avoided
  - driver failed to get out of cab periodically and recheck conditions when backing a long distance
  - driver depended solely on mirrors when it was practicable to look back
  - driver failed to get out of the cab and check proposed path of backward travel
  - driver failed to check behind vehicle parked at curb before attempting to leave parking space
  - driver relied solely on a guide to help him/her back
  - driver backed from blind side when he/she could have made a sight-side approach
  
- **While being Passed**
  - **preventable if:**
  - driver failed to stay in his own lane and hold speed or reduce it to permit safe passing
  
- **While Entering Traffic Stream**
  - **preventable if:**

- driver failed to signal when pulling out from curb
- driver failed to check traffic before pulling out from curb
- driver failed to look back to check traffic if he/she was in position where mirrors did not show traffic conditions
- driver attempted to pull out in a manner that forced other vehicles to change speed or direction
- driver failed to make full stop before entering from side street, alley, or driveway
- driver failed to make full stop before crossing sidewalk
- driver failed to yield right of way to approaching traffic
  
- **Pedestrian**
  - **preventable if:**
  - driver did not reduce speed in area of heavy pedestrian traffic
  - driver was not prepared to stop
  - driver failed to yield right of way to pedestrian
  
- **Mechanical Defects**
  - **preventable if:**
  - defect was of a type that driver should have detected in making pre-trip or en-route inspection of a vehicle
  - defect was of a type that driver should have detected during normal operation of vehicle
  - defect was known to driver, but ignored
  - driver was instructed to operate with known defects
  
- **All Types**
  - **preventable if:**
  - driver was not operating at a speed suitable for the existing conditions of road, weather and traffic
  - driver failed to control speed so that he/she could stop within assured clear distance
  - driver misjudged available clearance
  - driver failed to yield right-of-way to avoid accident
  - driver failed to accurately observe existing conditions
  - driver was in violation of company rules or special instructions, the regulations of any Federal or State regulatory agency, or any applicable traffic laws or ordinances
  
- **Types of non preventable accidents:**
  - **Struck in Rear by Other Vehicle**
    - **non preventable if:**
    - driver's vehicle was legally and properly parked
    - driver was proceeding in his/her own lane of traffic at a safe and lawful speed

- driver was stopped in traffic due to existing conditions or was stopped in compliance with traffic sign or signal or the direction of a police officer or other person legitimately controlling traffic
- driver was in proper lane waiting to make turn
- **Struck While Parked**
  - **non preventable if:**
  - driver was properly parked in a location where parking was permitted
  - vehicle was stopped, parked or left standing in accordance with Sections 392.21 and 392.22 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations