

The Six Clearances

The majority of vehicle accidents are caused by inattention to the space around your vehicle. Backing, turning, overhead and fixed object crashes are the result of a failure to keep eyes moving and monitoring mirrors to recognize the obstacles around the truck. The six clearances you must be aware of are front, back, right side, left side, overhead and below the truck.

Front – Maintain a safe following distance. In tight areas be aware of fixed objects below your sight line such fences, protective rails or guards and fire hydrants.

Back – Backing accidents are the most common of all crashes. Check the area you are backing into prior to movement. Check both mirrors continuously for vehicles or persons approaching or moving into the backing area. Also, be aware of vehicles tailgating as you drive, allow them to pass safely.

Right and Left sides - Constantly monitor your mirrors (vertical and convex) every 5 to 8 seconds for cars hiding in blind spots alongside your vehicle. Be certain you have space before you attempt to change lanes or merge. Turning maneuvers are also a major cause for right-hand squeeze or left-turn off-tracking crashes.

Overhead – Always look up! Be aware of low wires, trees or low overhangs, especially on private property. On streets with low wires or overhanging trees, avoid contact by choosing the lane of least resistance.

Below – Keep your eyes open for traffic hazards such as curbs and road debris that cause damage to tires and wheels.

Remember that many motorists are not aware of the blind spots that surround your truck. They do not understand the hazard.

TO REMAIN ACCIDENT-FREE, BE AWARE OF YOUR 6 CLEARANCES AT ALL TIMES!