

### How to Stay Safe and Avoid a Dumper-Trailer Accident

Not all accidents can be prevented, there are many things we can do as drivers that can help us avoid these dangerous accidents.

#### Safety Tips to Avoid Dumper-Trailer Accidents

Although it is difficult to prevent a tractor-trailer accident, traffic experts say drivers can take certain critical steps to safeguard themselves.



- *Pay attention, and treat dumpers differently than you would other vehicles* -- A dumper's size and weight can affect the driver's ability to brake and stop the dumper, and his/her ability to change lanes. It is not easy for them to stop quickly, making tailgating extremely dangerous.
- If you must pass a dumper, do it in a hurry, with your full attention on the road.
- When possible, don't drive next to a dumper for any extended length of time.
- *Stay visible and anticipate the low visibility of the dumper driver* - Pay attention to the dumpers turn signals, if the dumper is signaling to turn, the driver may not see you and may turn in front of you. Do not rely solely on your lights or horn to notify the driver of your presence, but also slow down your vehicle to stay out of the path of the dumper.
- Do not get aggressive or take out "road rage" against a dumper. Some dumper drivers, due to impatience or the desire to drive as many miles as possible, will tailgate and drive aggressively. Drivers may feel the desire to retaliate by cutting the dumper driver off or braking suddenly. However, this is a dangerous reaction.
- *Try to expect the unexpected* - Dumpers also have tire "blow-outs" that send all or most of their tires into the road around them.

*Note: For more road safety tips and guidelines please refer to our RTMS Manual*