

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

Volume 3, Issue 1



Know Your Mixer Truck

Know Your Ready Mixed Concrete Truck

Many responsibilities ride with concrete delivery professionals. Family, employers, customers, and the public depend on these individuals on an hourly basis. Sound mixer driver skills, such as proper mirror adjustment and precise axle settings, are vital for the safe and efficient operation of a mixer truck on the public roads. Before operating a ready mixed concrete truck, all mixer drivers should have a good understanding of basic mixer truck hazards and safety precautions. To operate effectively and safely, mixer drivers need to remain aware of hazards new and old.

Mixer Truck Safety Specifics

Mixer drivers need to inspect their trucks thoroughly and on a daily basis. Inspection requirements may be determined by a state's commercial driver's licensing agency. All inspections should be documented, and all deficiencies should be resolved before operating the truck. Drivers should always utilize at least the minimum required personal protective equipment (PPE) such as hi-vis vest, hard hat, safety glasses, safety boots, etc. Avoid the need to climb on trucks by locating items needed frequently where they can be reached from the ground. Do not climb or walk on drums, water tanks, fenders, cabs, engine covers, bumpers, or other areas that are not designed to be climbed on and are not provided with slip resistant surfaces and handrails. These surfaces can be slippery due to ice, mud, water, oil, or grease. When climbing is necessary, always use 3-points of contact. Mixer trucks have safety signs warning of the more common pinch or crush hazards, but not every hazard will be identified. Identify places where there are moving parts such as under-hood hazards, folding ladders, chutes, hydraulic cylinders, drums, and rollers. Similarly, study the mixer truck to identify all hazardous rotating parts. Common rotating parts include drive shafts, drums, rollers, power take-off shafts, and cooling fans. Diesel engines, such as with mixer trucks, involve high heat for operation. The exhaust system can get extremely hot without warning. Keep away from exhaust gas and do not park trucks where the exhaust pipes point toward or near flammable material. Do not operate any internal combustion engine, such as mixer trucks, in an area where hazardous exhaust gases can accumulate, or serious injury or death may occur. Mixer drivers should be aware of all fire and electrical shock hazards, such as fuel, oils, plastics, rubber, vinyl, cloth, electrical lines, and batteries. Finally, mixer trucks are a high powered industrial machine and may be loud during operation. As a rule of thumb, if someone has to shout to be heard, hearing protection should be available and used to keep noise exposure within recommended limits.



Mixer Truck Dos and Don'ts

- Think first before operating a mixer truck
- Thoroughly inspect mixer trucks regularly
- Wear appropriate PPE
- Adhere to all safety decals and signage
- Assess all hazards prior to operation
- Resolve any deficiencies before operating



Resources

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

FMCSA: [Resources for Drivers](#)

FMCSA: [The Motor Carrier Safety Planner](#)

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