

DECKER TRUCK LINE, INC.

U-Turns – Company Policy

To protect yourself and the motoring public, you are strictly prohibited from making a U-turn on any public street, road, highway or interstate unless directed to do so by law enforcement. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Making a U-turn in a tractor-trailer is one of the most dangerous maneuvers a driver can make. The chances of being involved in a crash are well documented. One of the most frequent crashes resulting from a U-turn is a run-under. Run-under crashes are one of the most devastating losses a trucking company can experience. A run-under crash can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in physical damage and personal injury. However, these crashes are frequently among the easiest to prevent. A run-under crash caused by a U-turn is possibly the easiest to prevent...never make a U-turn.

When a driver attempts to make a U-turn, the life of the driver and the lives of others nearby are put at risk. Below are just some of the risks involved

Since making a U-turn is an unexpected maneuver, it usually does not allow enough time for other drivers to avoid an accident. The average truck takes about 40 seconds to complete a U-turn which means the tractor-trailer is blocking most, if not all other traffic lanes for nearly a minute.

Drivers are just not able to turn their trucks around while remaining cognizant of all the dangers around them. Ensuring proper clearance on all sides of the vehicle is difficult at best when there is a hasty decision to make a U-turn.

Other motorists typically don't see the truck making a U-turn until it's too late to avoid an accident. Lights and reflective markings on a truck are just not enough to alert other drivers to react in time. This is especially true in low visibility such as darkness and fog.

Below are methods drivers can use to help get back on course instead of making a U-turn:

1. In urban areas, find an area where a driver can safely turn around without endangering anyone. An open parking lot may work well.
2. On the highway, circle back through on other roads. Roads are interconnected. If a driver happens to miss a turn, chances are a turn or off-ramp exists a few miles ahead. Use them to get safely back on track.
3. If you are faced with a situation that makes it impossible for you to safely proceed, call for help as soon as possible.