

SERIOUS EVENT REVIEW

Event date: February 2016

Mixer Truck Roll-over

A transit mixer truck was fully loaded traveling in the southbound right lane of the Highway. The driver exited the highway and attempted to make a right hand turn. The truck made the right turn and then fell over onto its left side.

Immediate Cause:

The driver attempted a right turn at a speed that was unsafe for conditions and the road configuration. Driver did not adequately take into consideration the reduction of speed necessary to make a safe turn. Posted speed limits and warning speed limits are intended for passenger cars; drivers of heavy trucks must take into consideration the size of the vehicle and loads when assessing safe maneuvering speeds. To avoid unnecessary accidents drivers of commercial vehicles must drive at speeds which ensure that they can safely stop and maintain control of the vehicle. When speed is properly reduced on turns, the truck's tires will maintain contact with the road at all times.

Contributing Factors:

- Slump – The mixer was fully loaded with a low 100mm slump which contributed to instability of the truck on a right hand turn. (Note: Drum speed could not be determined but could have been a factor.)
- Complacency – Driver had already delivered to this job site.
- Inattention to Driving – If the driver had been focused on the road conditions and configuration, the rollover may not have occurred
- Inexperience – Driver had 10 months of ready mix experience.

Corrective and Preventative Actions:

- Training – Review training program curriculum and implement “Smith Driver Training System”.
- Engineering Controls - New equipment will have the Bendix roll stability system, automated system to monitor and control drum speed, and McNeilus mixers will have a lower center of gravity to assist with truck stability.