

List tipover hazards on site

Explain dangers

Dump trucks have tipped over when their boxes were lifted. The result has been death and injury to drivers and nearby workers.

Just consider some of the dimensions and forces involved.

A 46-foot trailer raised at 45 degrees is about 42 feet high. That's a lot of height and weight to keep balanced.

One small factor can make the truck tip over. All it takes is

- a slight variation in level
- a load that gets stuck
- soft ground under tires.

Identify controls

Let's take a few minutes to review basic operating procedures.

- At the loading point, make sure that the load is distributed evenly in the box. Don't overload.
- Remember that long boxes tip more easily than short boxes.
- Always make sure that trailer and tractor are aligned before dumping.
- Avoid dumping in high winds.

- Dump only on level ground. On slopes, dump downhill rather than up—the box doesn't have to be raised as high.
- Take extra care when dumping sticky material like clay and asphalt. It may stick to one side of the raised box and not to the other. Or it may stick in the upper portion, creating a top-heavy load. Either condition can lead to uneven weight, imbalance, and tipover.
- Don't leave a load in the truck overnight. It will stick to the box, especially in freezing temperatures.
- Keep your truck in good condition. Stability can be affected by poor suspension, uneven tire pressure, and worn or inadequate lifting systems.
- Ensure that the latch on the box works properly.
- Stay in the cab during dumping and keep your seatbelt on. You're less likely to be injured in a rollover. If the truck starts to tip **DON'T TRY TO JUMP OUT.**
- Always lower the box before moving the truck. This lowers the centre of gravity and prevents rocking, swaying, and instability. It also prevents contact with overhead obstructions.
- Keep lift axles down while dumping. Loads will be distributed over more bearing surfaces and the truck will not sink as easily in soft ground.

Demonstrate

Inspect boxes on one or two dump trucks. Check that latch works properly. Point out any defects or damage.