

Safely Navigating Curves in a CMV

A fact sheet about CMV crashes that occur on curves in Texas.

Curves typically have a crash rate up to

5x

higher than straight road sections¹

Crashes where a truck is a critical factor most often occur due to:

- the truck leaving its lane,
- loss of control of the truck
- or another vehicle encroaching into the truck's lane.²

These factors are most common on rural two-lane highways.

SPEEDING PLAYS A ROLE IN MOST OF THESE CRASHES

Your actions matter!

In most CMV crashes on curves, no other vehicles are involved.

Here is what you can do to stay safe:



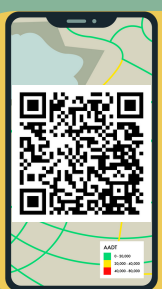
Look for posted signs. They alert you to the shape of upcoming curves and give you a speed that is safe based on the roadway design and physical conditions.



Slow down prior to approaching a curve. Your speed should be slow enough that you do not have to use your brakes. Braking can cause your wheels to lock up which can make you skid off the road.



As you approach a curve, move to the lane opposite of the direction of the curve. As you continue through the curve, position your vehicle towards the other side of your lane. Exit the curve towards the side of the road that you began on.³



Use the Risk Map to identify high-risk curves in area you travel; determine if there is a safer alternate route or make a safety plan for how to navigate those high-risk curves.

To view the risk map, visit:
<https://bit.ly/TxCurveMap>.

Crashes are more likely to occur:

- on sharper curves
- on roads with a low traffic volume
- in lanes that are narrow or lack rumble strips
- on roads with no shoulders and roadsides with obstacles or sharp drop-offs within 30 feet
- at curves with posted speed limits of 60 mph or less
- on roads that have an intersection or driveway near a curve

Rural two-lane highways are particularly risky