



Dump Truck Safety



West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety

Pre-Use Activities

- Review and understand information provided in the dump truck operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Inspect the dump truck, including the head and tail lights, horn, rear view mirrors, tires, air brakes, and fluid levels.
- If any dump truck equipment fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the truck from service by attaching a red tag that states "DO NOT USE." Complete red tag with appropriate information.

Operating Precautions

- When entering or exiting the cab of a dump truck, always use the hand hold and steps.
- Know the locations of obstacles such as boulders, overhead electric lines, fences, and low tree limbs in areas where loading, hauling, and dumping are to occur.
- Be aware of blind spots when backing a dump truck. Carefully adjust rear view mirrors to maximize your field of view. As necessary, use a "spotter" to back a dump truck.
- Know where other workers are located in the loading, hauling, and dumping areas.
- Maintain awareness of the relationship between increasing braking distance as the dump load weight increases. Dump box loads should be evenly distributed to enhance vehicle stability.
- Engage the dump-box lock bars before performing maintenance or other tasks under a raised dump box.
- Recognize surface areas hazardous to dumping, such as uneven and sloping surfaces or poorly compacted fill. Dumping loads while located on hazardous surface areas may result in vehicle tip overs.
- Assure length of travel is reasonably level and compacted before spreading material by dumping from a moving truck.
- Know whether the material being hauled is wet or damp and will it have a tendency to stick in the dump box as it is raised.
- Prevent vehicle tip overs by deflating the air bags before raising the dump box.
- Obey all traffic signs, signals, and speed limits.

