



## Prevent Truck Jackknives on Slick Roads

The National Safety Council offers the following driver safety tips to help prevent truck jackknives.



- **Do not use the trailer hand valves to slow down or stop.** This can cause the trailer wheels to lock up and slide sideways.
- **Do not become complacent or overconfident with your equipment or yourself.**



- **Make sure your vehicle load is distributed evenly to maintain vehicle stability and balance.**
- **Brake before a turn, not after you go into one.**
- **Decelerate slowly and brake smoothly.**
- **If the unit starts to slide,** press in the clutch to get all wheels rotating equally.
- **Check the mirrors when you stop on ice, snow or in rain.** If the trailer begins to move out of line, release the brakes and straighten the rig before you brake again.
- **Start your correction quickly.** Your chance of recovery lessens as you approach an angle of 15 degrees.
- **Jackknives result from uncontrolled braking and driving too fast for conditions.** Slow down to give yourself additional time to react.
- **If either the tractor or trailer does not have ABS and the other does, the unit without ABS will have a higher degree of causing a jackknife** because its wheels will lock up during hard braking, while the ABS equipped unit's wheels keep rotating.

