

# CSDA Best Practice for Sawing and Drilling Operations

**Title: Defensive Driving**  
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**Most vehicle accidents can be avoided. To prevent accidents, sawing and drilling operators should make a habit of following the guidelines set forth in this best practice as it applies to employers and employees of concrete cutting companies.**

1. Inspect your vehicle before driving each day. Check that all tools are stored, all doors are properly secured and no loose items are left on trailers. Check that all working lights are functional; check tires for wear and that they are properly inflated; inspect trailer hook-ups and check fluid levels. If a vehicle falls under DOT regulations, fill out and sign your DOT inspection as required.
2. Wear your seat belt at all times, even when driving very short distances.
3. Remember the extra weight you are carrying on the vehicle such as equipment, water or trailers. Stopping distance increases dramatically with increased loads.
4. Allow extra room between vehicles. It is understandable that people will cut into the open space, but slow down and reduce your speed. When stopping behind another vehicle, make sure to leave enough space between your vehicles so that you can see the rear tires of the vehicle in front of you. Rear end collisions are the number one insurance claim in the industry.
5. Drive at or below the posted speed limit. Remember that fines double in construction zones when workers are present.
6. Use your mirrors. Your eyes should continuously scan the mirrors. Be aware of blind spots. Drive professionally, avoid aggressive driving and do not take the actions of other drivers personally.
7. Reduce your multi-tasking by avoiding activities such as eating or talking on the radio or cell phone. Excessive volume on the truck radio and frequently adjusting the radio are also distractions. Excessive volume can also prevent you from hearing emergency vehicles. Most accidents are attributed to excessive speed, driver distraction and driver impairment. Never drive if you are impaired by any drug, alcohol or fatigue.
8. Keep your vehicle clean and neat. Make sure the dashboard is clear of loose items. Make sure there are no cans or bottles on the floor that may interfere with brake or gas pedals.
9. Be aware of changes in the weather. Ice and snow will reduce traction. Heavy rains will cause slick roads as water mixes with oil on the roadways. Bridges will often freeze before roadways freeze, therefore stay focused and be alert.
10. Take extra caution when entering or exiting a highway work zone. Reduce speed, turn on flashers and strobe lights and maneuver in or out of the traffic safely.

Remember to follow company policy in the event of an accident. In some cases, company policy requires that you do not leave the scene until calling your supervisor or the safety director. Also, report all accidents and near misses to your supervisor.