



# So, if most rollovers aren't caused by external conditions, speed or inexperience, what does cause them?



**Driver error.** Rollovers can happen to anyone at any time, so drivers can never be too comfortable behind the wheel. Some 78% of rollovers involve some kind of driver error, and over 90% of the time, the rollover is not the “first” event. In other words, some other dangerous event occurs before the rollover. It might be drowsiness or inattention, which together contribute to 1 in 5 cargo tank rollovers, with running off the road due to inattention being the leading cause of serious crashes. The event might be a cargo tank driver drifting over onto a soft shoulder, riding up over a curb, or incorrectly

making a turn at an intersection. Attentive driving can prevent most rollovers.

**Vehicle condition** plays a role in some rollovers. In one study,\* for example, 54% of vehicles in rollovers had a brake defect of some sort.

**Load size** is also a factor in some rollovers. Some 63% of rollover crashes occurred with cargo tanks carrying partial loads, so drivers must understand the “slosh and surge” effect of liquid loads.

Owners, managers, and others in the industry play a big part in helping drivers **Keep the Load on the Road** by:

➤ **Providing drivers with training tools.**

Motion-based simulators can serve as very effective training tools for new drivers due to their ability to place drivers in simulated dangerous situations without actually posing a danger. Vehicles equipped with electronic stability aids provide ongoing training by alerting drivers when they have taken a curve too quickly. Other in-cab devices offer drivers continuing education by automatically slowing a vehicle that enters a curve too quickly, warning drivers of upcoming sharp curves and analyzing the likelihood of rollovers on past curves. Providing drivers with the right training tools can have both short- and long-term effects on driver safety. In fact, improved training programs can eliminate an estimated 10% of rollovers experienced by drivers under 35 years of age.

➤ **Sharing the FMCSA Cargo Tank Truck Rollover Prevention video with drivers.**

Research shows that watching a video yields a higher retention rate than just reading or hearing about why rollovers occur. Help improve and enhance the consciousness of cargo tank drivers—preventing rollovers can save time, money, and lives.

➤ **Maintaining a heightened awareness of rollover causes.**

Fleet managers and dispatchers serve as a driver's co-pilot and have the most day-by-day influence over the driver's world. They can remind drivers of the importance of Hours-of-Service regulations to help ensure they are rested and alert. This lets drivers know carriers care about their safety. Drivers who are satisfied with the way a carrier treats them maintain a better awareness of safe driving practices.

Rollovers can happen at any time, so drivers can never be too comfortable behind the wheel.

Scan this code to learn more about cargo tank rollovers.



Or visit:  
[www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rolloverprevention](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rolloverprevention)



U.S. Department of Transportation  
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