

USA Camper RV

32242 Ave D/ YUCAIPA California 92399 / Phone: 1 909 744 9229 / FAX : 323 927 1663

Toll free: (800) 494-5159

Contact Email: info@usacamperv.de

www.usacamperv.de



RV Travel Safety Tips



RV Travel Safety Tips

Our driving safety tips will help you develop safer habits that can protect you, your passengers, your vehicle and other motorists. These basic driving techniques can reduce your chances of collision.

Accident Procedures

You should be aware of the proper accident procedures to follow if you're involved in an accident. Of course everyone hopes they will never have to worry about this, but preparation is your best plan of action.

The first thing you need to remember is to stay calm and prepare to take decisive action. Following simple accident reporting procedures and an accident injury procedure can benefit all those involved.

Accident Reporting Procedures

RV Accident

If you're on an interstate or intrastate highway and are involved in an accident you will need to call the police. If you are in a private parking lot you can still call the police to have a report filled out, but you would most likely exchange insurance information with the other drivers involved and call your insurance agent to report the accident to them.

What if the accident involves a fatality, an injury requiring medical attention, or requires a tow you should also call police?

There are some basic accident procedures you should follow in this particular situation for the appropriate corrective action. If you think you won't remember them print out this list and keep it in the glove compartment for easy reference in case of any emergency. Being prepared for a road collision lets you help others who may be injured and to make proper decisions in a crisis situation.

You should be carrying the following safety devices in your tow vehicle or motor home: Bi-directional triangles, a Mariner Fire Extinguisher, flares and a first-aid kit. These simple items can be important if an accident occurs and it's best to be prepared.

Accident Injury Procedure

Stop! Turn on your 4-way flashers, move off the roadway if possible, turn OFF your engine, set your emergency brake and stay calm.

Warn others with the use of bi-directional triangles, fuses with 30 minute burn times, or flares with a 60 minute burn time.

Help any injured people using reasonable assistance. Call for medical help if necessary, keep individuals warm, DO NOT move injured people unless they are in immediate danger and ask the injured people if they have someone who should be notified that they have been in an accident.

Contact the police by calling 911, report the EXACT location and tell them if there are injuries involved, and NEVER leave the scene of the accident. Dial 911 or another local emergency number in emergencies such as a fire, traffic accident, road hazard or medical emergency.

Contact your insurance company. Stay out of danger of traffic and take photos of the accident scene, this will help with claims and litigation. Focus on skid marks, debris, property damage, injured and uninjured individuals



(be sensitive to their injuries but get details) or anything else that have contributed to the accident. Focus on skid marks, debris, or whatever may have contributed to the accident.

Placing Bi-Directional Triangles

On a Divided Highway or a One-Way Road place triangle. (one step = 2 1/2 feet)

10 feet behind your RV = 4 steps;

100 feet behind your RV = 40 steps

200 feet behind your RV = 80 steps

On a Two-Lane Highway place the triangle:

10 feet behind your RV

100 feet behind RVF

100 feet in front of your RV

RV Towing Safety Motorhome Safety

Now for a recap of the proper accident procedure tips: Remember that even if you are a safe driver you could be involved in an accident, and it's best to be prepared. Following a simple accident plan can eliminate confusion in a stressful situation.

Remember to remain calm, secure the area with warning devices, call for assistance, and help any individuals that have been injured.

If your RV is still drivable after a collision then be sure you are relaxed and calm before you begin driving it again. Careless driving practices can lead to moving violations and decrease traffic safety for everyone on the road, so don't send text message, or other distracting behaviors while driving your RV.

We full time Rvers and on the road a lot and the more you're on the road the more lax you may become behind the wheel. Don't let that happen to you, always be aware and alert to potential dangers.

To ensure motorhome safety and RV towing safety it's best to be prepared and use the proper accident procedures while you are enjoying Full Time Rving on the open road.

Backing Techniques

Although RV drivers spend a relatively small amount of time trailer backing this maneuver results in a large number of mishaps.

Backing is basic, but it isn't simple when you're maneuvering a large or jointed vehicle. It takes patience, good judgment, and a certain amount of skill to back without damaging your RV.

Basic Fundamentals of Backing Your RV

- Get out and look (GOAL) before beginning to back. You need to see what you're backing up to. Check for obstacles that you might not otherwise be able to see. Check all sides of your RV and underneath before beginning to back.
- Use a spotter to help guide you back and to stop you before getting into any trouble. Be sure to agree on hand signals before starting, so you'll be able to recognize the signals. Be aware of any blind spots on your tow vehicle or motor-home. Position your spotter where you can see them and the spotter has a clear view of the vehicle's path.
- Use your four-way flashers to alert others that you will be backing.
- Make sure your mirrors are adjusted, and then watch your mirrors as you proceed. If your rig starts to drift left or right, pull forward and start over. (**Tip:** There are special RV mirrors that can help you line up your hitch right from the driver's seat, and clip-on mirrors that you can attach to your vehicle when you tow your RV that give additional towing views. Some of these mirrors attach right on to your existing rear-view mirrors, so you don't have to drill holes for mounting in your vehicle.)
- A back-up camera takes the mystery out of backing and can be used for viewing a towed vehicle and rear traffic while driving.
- Most importantly; take your time when backing and trailer maneuvering. It's more embarrassing to run into something and damage your rig than to take your time and do it right.

Right Side Backing (Blind Side)

- Plan your approach.
- Back and turn toward the driver's side. This is known as "jacking" and "chasing".
- "Jacking" is changing the direction of the trailer by steering in the opposite direction. To turn the trailer to the right turn the steering wheel to the left.
- "Chasing" is steering your tow vehicle just enough to follow the path of the trailer.
- Watch your trailer in your left mirror.
- Watch your rear wheels and if you miss your turning point, pull up and start over.
- Never jack more than a 90 degree angle. You will Jack-knife your trailer!
- You should get out and look every few feet and check for problems. If everything looks good you proceed and if not pull forward and start over.

Driving techniques to Avoid Backing Accidents

Don't Rush, plan your maneuver, check your mirrors and your wheels, use a spotter, back slowly, change direction with your steering, and pull up and start over if necessary. A backup camera can take the mystery out of trailer backing!

- See more at: <http://www.fulltime-rving.com/trailer-backing.html#sthash.iSindarE.dpuf>

Defensive Driving

Most folks are taught defensive driving during Drivers Education classes in high school. Navigating an RV requires some of the same techniques that will help you avoid road collisions.

Practice Defensive Driving

Let's review! Defensive driving is taking precautionary measures to prevent accidents and ensure your passengers safety. As captain of your RV you should make a habit of always driving defensively. Some maneuvers may seem routine, but you should not let your guard down while navigating your RV.

Driving Tips



- Learn to recognize and react to potential emergencies and driving hazards on the road.
- Be prepared for anything. We once saw a truck hit a car resulting in bodies tossed from the vehicle right in front of us! We had to maneuver quickly in order not to run over these unfortunate people! Another time we witnessed a car flipping over after it had been speeding and dodging through traffic! In a large vehicle it takes more time to stop, so be prepared. The more time you spend on the road the more your likely you are to witness problems.
- Practice driver safety. Don't count on other drivers to be safe - Some will, and some won't.
- Scan your surroundings and use your mirrors.
- Allow enough room to take action if something occurs.
- Make a habit to plan your moves ahead. If trouble happens, don't hesitate to follow through with your plan.

Navigating Turns and Intersections

- Knowing your vehicle is key to navigating turns and intersections.
- Slow down and signal early as you approach your turn.
- Know where your RV is in relation to other vehicles on the road.
- When turning right; pull into the intersection before you begin to turn. Watch your right mirror for vehicles turning into your path.
- For left turns keep your RV to the right side of your lane and begin turning once you're halfway past the center of the intersection. Again, watch your mirrors, and your left mirror to avoid other vehicles.
- Move slowly! Excessive speed will not allow you to make adjustments in your turns decreasing vehicle safety.

Underpasses

- Never assume the marked heights are correct. Road repairs can significantly reduce the clearance significantly.
- Whenever possible avoid unmarked underpasses.
- Approach slowly and turn on your flashers.
- Watch for "bridging" where the road may slope on both sides. The clearance may be for the center of the underpass, while the sides have a reduced clearance.

Merging and Passing

- Signal early and watch your mirrors.
- Be aware of your blind spots.
- Leave a 2-second gap behind your trailer or RV when passing, and stay to the far left of your lane to avoid sideswiping other vehicles.

Defensive Driving Safety Tips!

Stay alert and be prepared to stop, learn to recognize hazards, and take appropriate action. Anticipate unsafe maneuvers of other driver's, keep checking your mirrors, give the right-of-way to others. Use headlights in rain, snow, fog and of course at night. Staying aware of your rig and your surroundings will keep you and your passengers safer on the road when trailer driving.

Extreme Weather Conditions

Extreme Weather Driving in thick fog, driving rain, icy roads or blowing snow can reduce visibility and cause extreme driving hazards.

During these conditions your RV will not handle the same. If you are driving in bad weather follow these safety tips.



Fog is the Most Common Visibility Problem

- If you can't see more than seven vehicle lengths ahead you must slow down to a maximum speed of 20 to 30 miles per hour. If you can see more than three vehicle lengths, you should only be driving 10 to 15 miles per hour. If visibility is zero you need to find a safe place to get off the road. How long would it take you to stop if you encounter an accident ahead of you?
- Keep low beams on so others can see well. Blinding other drivers leads to accidents.

- Use wipers if windshield mists up.
- Rain is the most common weather driving hazard. Visibility can be limited as much as with fog. For safe driving reduce speed to increase traction and control.
- Your RV can easily hydroplane because traction is reduced when rain mixes with dirt, oil and grease on the road.
- The traction of your RV will be affected by the type and weight of your RV, your tire condition, the road surface, and the road and air temperatures. A Trailer Sway Control works for all types of road conditions.

Winds over 60 miles per hour can land you in the ditch! Keep your hands on the wheel and watch for wind gusts on overpasses, bridges, when exiting tunnels, or driving near canyons or open flat areas.

Snow contributes to both visibility and reduced traction. When winter driving give yourself plenty of time and be alert. Use low beams, and windshield wipers. Accelerate, steer, and brake smoothly to avoid skidding.

Ice creates the slickest road conditions even if visibility is good. Black ice is impossible to see especially at night. Note if ice is forming on your mirrors than there is most likely ice on the road as well. Bridges and overpasses can be especially dangerous when driving on ice. Increase your braking distance 4 to 10 times what you normally would allow. Listening to the radio can alert you the changing weather. Accelerate or decelerate slowly and slow down!

Now Proceed to a Better Climate!



RV Safety Travel Tips

1. When choosing a place to rest remember even in the best areas in broad-daylight with lots of folks around your rig can be taken or broken into. Your best defense is to stay alert and don't leave it unattended.
2. When choosing a place to stay overnight an RV park is generally your safest bet. If we can't find a park or we just want to dry camp we always look for a truck stop. It might be a little noisy, but there is a lot of activity and people around. Many truck stops now have RV parking and you can pull right in next to other RVs. The Truckers Friend is a directory of Truck Stops that lists RV facilities nationwide. Don't park on the side of the street or shopping center unless they have overnight security that allows it. City parks can be havens for criminal activity after dark. Don't risk it.
3. Another option is to try the local hospital parking lot. We have parked overnight at Loma Linda in California. There is a guard on duty 24/7.
4. We never stay overnight in roadside rest areas anymore. It's just too dangerous. We may stop for a quick bite to eat, or stretch the legs, but never overnight.
5. Recent news reports have shown RV windows and doors to be vulnerable to break-ins. In minutes a thief can be inside your RV. The compartments can easily be opened with a screw driver and the door keys on many RVs are common and readily available to anyone.

