

Lessons Learned



Date: May 4th, 2021

Region: Denver

Project: Shipping and Receiving

Incident Title: Multiple Vehicle Accident – Apollo Towing Trailer

Summary

An Apollo driver was driving an Apollo truck attached with a trailer, hauling a forklift to a project. The employee was suddenly cut off by another vehicle rapidly changing lanes ahead of them, blocking sight of traffic ahead that was stopping. Upon being able to see the traffic ahead, the employee attempted to stop, but did not have the proper clearance to come to a stop before hitting the vehicle ahead. Striking the vehicle ahead, caused that vehicle to push into another vehicle, resulting in a multiple vehicle accident.



What Went Right?

- Employee was wearing seatbelt and was not injured.
- Accident was reported immediately to the supervisor and safety.
- Employee was traveling at slow speeds resulting in the extent of damage being reduced.

What Went Wrong?

- Proper follow distances were not allotted regarding the truck length and weight being hauled.
- Employee was distracted by the vehicle that cut them off while also blocking the view ahead that traffic was stopping.

Lessons Learned

- **According to FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration - Large trucks need additional space between vehicles to allow for safe braking and unexpected actions. Trucks pulling trailers should attempt to maintain a minimum distance of 500 ft behind vehicles ahead.**
- **- If driving below 40 mph, one second should be added between vehicles for every 10 ft of vehicle & trailer length. For speeds over 40 mph, an additional second between vehicles should be given.**
- **- The average stopping distance for a loaded tractor-trailer traveling at 55 mpg (in ideal conditions) is 196 ft., compared with 133 ft. for a passenger vehicle.**