

# Safety Director's Notebook

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## BRIDGES-UNDERPASSES-OVERPASSES

Hitting a Bridge, Underpass, or Overpass will result in Overhead Damage and will ruin your day. Not all bridges and under/overpasses will accommodate all types of trucks. Bridges are old, roads have been repaved, and trucks have gotten bigger. To avoid being involved in a Bridge/Underpass/Overpass accident, the following are some tips to prevent this type of damage:



1. When obtaining directions from dispatch or customers, ask if the route to their location is a truck route or if there are any bridges, underpasses, or overpasses that you will need to drive under.
2. Overhead clearances were posted when bridges, underpasses, and overpasses were built. But keep in mind that they may have been resurfaced adding 2" of asphalt to the roadway.
3. Just because other trucks are going through doesn't mean that you will fit. There are many variables to consider.
4. If an overpass looks low, slow down immediately, put on your four-way flashers, ease up to the overpass, come to a stop, and check your clearance.
5. Many bridges and overpasses are not perfectly straight; the sides are often lower than the center. Cross under the bridge or overpass in the inside lane.
6. If possible, take a look at the road elevation on the other side of the bridge to see if there is a sharp incline or decline. These situations could cause trouble as you may fit under, but as you exit the body or trailer will be driven up into the bridge, due to the road elevation.
7. In the winter, snow or ice on the roadway can change the amount of clearance enough to cause damage to your equipment.
8. Be aware that conditions do change. In the extreme heat, wires will stretch and hang lower over the roadway. In the winter, ice can also lower the wires and tree limbs causing damage.
9. If you question that your truck will not make it under, the best advice is to stop, get out, and look; if traffic is congested, you may want to call the police for assistance.



**Always look ahead and overhead!**