



U-TURNS

Making a U-turn is one of the most dangerous maneuvers by any driver on any road. Yet when a U-turn is made by a tractor trailer, the results can be deadly. These turns are a common cause of serious [trucking accidents](#) on all types of roads, leaving safety advocates and attorneys questioning if a ban on such maneuvers is needed. Based on the prevalence of U-turn-related [semi truck accidents](#), many believe that making them illegal would improve this scary statistic. **CPC Logistics drivers had 4 fatality accidents tied to U-turns in 2017 alone.**

U-Turns and Tractor Trailers Do Not Mix

Anyone who has ever made a legal U-turn in a designated area surely knows they require careful vehicle handling. Drivers need to be overly observant of traffic around them and require a wide, clear area to make the turn. When the same is attempted with a wider, longer, and taller vehicle, everyone on the road can be affected in many ways, such as:

- **Lack of Maneuverable Space** - Tractor trailers require a much larger area in which to perform safe U-turns, which is not provided on most roads. Yet many drivers attempt them, even on single-lane highways where they must maneuver the truck backwards and forward numerous times in the available space to complete the turn. Unfortunately, it often results in dangerous [semi truck accidents](#).
- **Lack of Visibility** - When U-turns are performed with large trucks, the driver's visibility of the surrounding area is dramatically reduced. Drivers lose sight of traffic on both sides of their vehicles, making it impossible to see any obstacle in front of or behind the vehicle. This is a common cause of [trucking accidents](#) which includes driving into or over road signs, other vehicles, and even pedestrians. Nighttime U-turns only escalate this problem.
- **Blocking Traffic** - These maneuvers can block both lanes of traffic due to the size of the truck and its wide turning radius. At the very least, this becomes an inconvenience to other drivers who now must wait for the truck to finish the turn. This sudden and unexpected blockage of traffic can also cause indirect [trucking accidents](#) between other vehicles when traffic is forced to come to a sudden stop.

Walgreens has a Risky Maneuvers Policy, which includes "No Non-Approved U-Turns," for these reasons. It states:

U-Turns will only be allowed under the following conditions:

- Geographical restrictions, which limit or prohibit access to a Walgreens store which a Safety Manager confirming the necessity has approved. A list of approved stores will be kept by CPC Management and updated as needed based on feedback from drivers and Safety personnel.*
- Driver is instructed to perform a U-turn by a law enforcement officer (or other directional control) due to detour or construction outside the normal flow of traffic*

Focus- On planning your route prior to departure, which includes overview of GPS routes, to not do U-Turns.

Anticipate- Possible detours and learning about routes not done by you previously.

Correct- Ask fellow senior drivers about unknown routes and research stores you haven't done before.

Talk- Inform your manager about stores that require making a U-turn to complete, for evaluation.