

TIP SHEET

A series of health and safety tips to prevent work-related injuries in the trucking industry



Do the Tandem Slide



Reaching to grab latch handle can cause a shoulder injury.

Sliding trailer tandem axles is a common task, but can be dangerous. Awkward and repeated reaching to pull the release latch can injure your shoulder or back. Placing your head or upper body between the trailer and tires can cause severe or deadly crushing injuries. When you slide the tandems, consider the potential risks so you can make decisions that keep you and your co-workers safe. Get proper training and give yourself plenty of time to do the job right.

TIPS TO LIVE BY

- ❑ Align the truck and trailer on level ground to reduce tension on the release latch.
- ❑ Use an extension rod to reach the latch handle instead of bending your back, twisting your shoulder, or placing yourself between the tires and trailer.
- ❑ Only the driver should adjust the tandems to prevent miscommunication that can put helpers at high risk.
- ❑ Consider using a tandem stopper tool to remove the need to frequently check the locking pins or to use a helper.
- ❑ Before pulling away, check all locking pins to make sure they are firmly secured in the slide rail holes.
- ❑ Report mechanical problems to your supervisor or maintenance shop.
- ❑ Before you exit the cab look for debris, ice, oil or holes in the ground.
- ❑ Always use three points of contact to enter or exit your cab.
- ❑ Wear reflective clothing when outside your truck.



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KeepTruckingSafe.org

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