

1 Have a PIE before you roll

Check your Physical, Intellectual, Emotional state before driving. Ask yourself: Am I physically ready? Am I mentally focused? Am I emotionally steady? A 30-second self-check can prevent hours of trouble later.

2 Make your truck talk

Signals, lights, horn, and hazards are your truck's voice. Signal early and often before moving, tap the horn before backing, and make eye contact with other road users at intersections. Clear communication builds trust and prevents uncertainty.

3 Square every turn

When doing turns, pull out straight, turn late, and avoid a wide "jug handle." For right turns especially, watch for pedestrians, cyclists, or cars trying to sneak up on your blind side.

4 Passing can wait

The safest lane is usually the one you're already in. Passing adds traffic variables, blind spots, and less time to react, sharply increasing collision risk. Drop the time pressure mindset. Safety always beats speed.

5 Hold the hill with your drivetrain

Your drivetrain is built to hold you back, and your service brakes aren't. Rely on engine brakes or retarders on grades, not service brakes. Smart control prevents overheating and accidents.

