



Municipal & Public Works Vehicle Operations

# Water Utility Vehicle Operation & Safety

**Target Audience:** This CEU-accredited course (#DS/DW/WW-02094009 at 0.7 CEU) is designed specifically for municipal public works, water or wastewater utility workers and all other city, county or special district employees not in public safety divisions who may be called upon to operate vacuum trucks, tanker trucks or any other water utility vehicles. This program is for good drivers as well as drivers in need of improvement. New and seasoned drivers alike will benefit from the course!

Trainees will receive a Training Certificate!



For more information or to inquire about  
upcoming training dates:

Email: [info@wetrainamerica.com](mailto:info@wetrainamerica.com)

Phone: (813) 995-8872

Website: [WeTrainAmerica.com](http://WeTrainAmerica.com)

## Training program includes:

### General Driver Skills:

Identifies good driver habits. Also introduces important driver improvement areas by discussing common bad habits that increase your risk of collision or other mishap and covers how to convert problematic driving tendencies to good habits.

Issues covered include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Excessive speed
- ✓ Tailgating
- ✓ Blind spots
- ✓ Late lane changes
- ✓ Merge zones
- ✓ In-cab distractions
- ✓ Stop signs and traffic signals
- ✓ Intersections
- ✓ Improper use of mirrors
- ✓ Poor weather conditions
- ✓ Faulty equipment and vehicle inspection
- ✓ Vehicle breakdown

### Interactive Format:

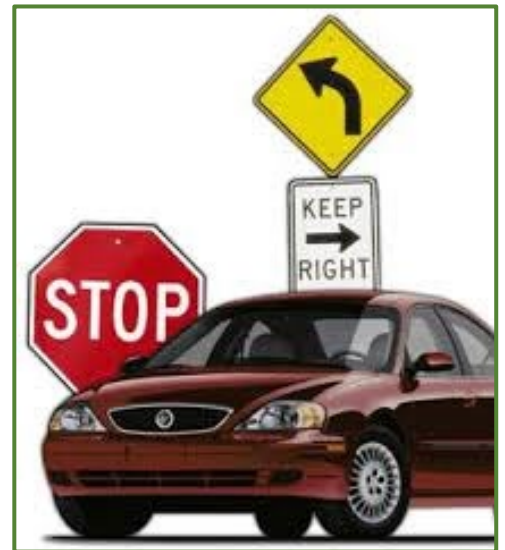
Students are asked to participate with their personal observations and experiences on the road. In this interactive part of the program we poll the class on best and worse driving habits observed, when to expect them, how to react to them, etc.

### Promoting/Mandating A Good Municipal Driver Attitude:

This segment challenges the participants to institute a personal test period where awareness, care for accident avoidance and a relaxed driver attitude is practiced until it becomes a habit.

### Vehicle Backing:

**Identification of Vehicle Blind Spots, Use of Mirrors and Use of Cameras/Sensors:** Instructs participants in how to become familiar with "limited rearward view" areas on any vehicle during pre-trip inspection and how to check backing alarms and newer vehicle backing accident prevention technology (such as cameras and proximity sensors) prior to travel.



## (Vehicle Backing, continued)

### General Vehicle Backing Accident Prevention Strategies:

Details safe work practices for most types of municipal vehicles and the most common scenarios when backing.

- ✓ Use of mirrors
- ✓ Use of a spotter
- ✓ Elimination of distractions
- ✓ Avoid front fender “turn while backing” collisions
- ✓ Drive in forward, drive out forward parking
- ✓ Walk around (if unknowns could be present)
- ✓ Use of cone front and back when parking
- ✓ Avoid backing whenever possible
- ✓ Backup alarms
- ✓ Back in when you park
- ✓ Whatever you do, BACK SLOWLY!



**Spotter Hand Signals:** Industry recognized (SAE) hand signals are introduced (or confirmed). Students learn hand motions as follows:

- ✓ Adjust right
- ✓ Adjust left
- ✓ Forward retry
- ✓ Stop
- ✓ Emergency Stop

**Spotter Protocol:** Outlines the duties of driver and spotter while executing an assisted vehicle backing maneuver in open areas, alley docking, through plant obstacles (surface/side/overhead), in field situations, etc.

### Vehicle Backing Field Exercise (Optional):

Multiple vehicle backing exercises are set up (in parking area near classroom). Student groups practice as drivers and/or spotters in negotiating “spotter-assisted” backing maneuvers. Vehicle backing skills, use of hand signals and “loss of visual contact” protocols are practiced.

## Vac Truck Safety:

Along with general driver skills, the classroom portion of vac truck safety reviews a recent history of public sector vac-truck accidents, relative OSHA standards and general vac-truck work zone safety issues. Also includes a review of owner's operator manual (or video) that introduces each machine component, identifies all controls and their function(s) and discusses recommended uses and basic safe operating principles.



### Also considered:

**Vehicle backing:** Details safe work practices for large "limited rear visibility" vac-trucks and the most common accident scenarios when backing.

**Municipal route safety:** Reviews issues specific to municipal driving while on assignment with a municipal agency:

- Choice of routes
- Neighborhood risks
- Assisting stranded motorists
- Exiting the vehicle
- Private property
- Public visibility / citizen complaints



**Specific Vac Truck Vehicle Risks:** Covers accident scenarios specific to vac-truck vehicles, such as overhead/width clearances and limited visibility danger zones.

**Vac Truck Equipment Operations & Crew Safety:** This segment includes close proximity rules for employees who perform special close-to-machine tasks, addressing PPE (personal protective equipment), high visibility apparel, proximity to pinch, suction and crush points and boom movement hazard areas. Also includes a review of:

- Vehicle positioning choices
- Flashers/beacons
- MOT – Temporary traffic control barricades
- Power lines
- Excavating safety

- Unattended work zones
- General hazard identification
- Parking brakes and wheel chocks
- Confined space entry
- Utility location



**Field Exercises:** Students will participate in a work zone set-up and review safe operations:

- |                |                           |                          |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Machine set up | Wet vs dry issues         | Fluidity and friction    |
| Engaging PTO's | Throttle settings         | Emergency release valves |
| Grounding      | Hose handling (#/persons) | ...and more!             |

## Tanker Truck Safety:

Along with general driver skills, the classroom portion of tanker truck safety reviews a recent history of public sector tanker accidents, relative OSHA standards and general equipment work zone safety issues. Also includes a review of owner's operator manual (or video) that introduces each machine component, identifies all controls and their function(s) and discusses recommended uses and basic safe operating principles.



### Also considered:

**Safety considerations:** Details safe work practices for performance of essential tasks on the tops of tank trucks, including inspection, 3-point system, job-specific personal protective equipment and more.

**Municipal route safety:** Reviews driving-specific issues related to:

- Rollover risk factors
- Slosh and surge
- Curves/grades/shoulders
- Berms/mounds/curbs
- Narrow driveways
- Limited visibility areas

**Unsafe behaviors:** Covers a variety of driver behaviors that can lead to accidents and injuries.

