



# VACUUM TRUCK

## Operation & Safety Certification Course

Typically provided as a 1-day course, training includes classwork in the morning and hands-on instruction in the afternoon. Course is designed as an introduction for new employees and as a safety refresher for more experienced employees. In some states, course qualifies for CEU or PDH hours.

### Classroom Summary:

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             | Exiting the vehicle                    |
| Neighborhood risks           | Private property                       |
| Assisting stranded motorists | 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     | Unattended work zones           |
| Flashers/beacons                | General hazard identification   |
| MOT – Temporary traffic control | Parking brakes and wheel chocks |
| barricades                      | Confined space entry            |
| Power lines                     | Utility location                |
| Excavating safety               |                                 |

### Hands-On Exercises:

Students will participate in a work zone set up and perform safe operations:

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

