



Managing Steep Descents

Down safely, everytime.

Getting a heavy combination safely down a big hill is a demonstration of your **skill** and **expertise** as a truck driver.

There are three key elements you need to consider:

1. The Hill



• Know your run

- Ask about any steep descents on a new run
- Talk with schedulers or existing drivers

• Length & grade

- How long is the hill?
- What is the average grade?
- Any steep sections?

• Arrestor beds

- Are there any arrestor beds?
- Where are they?
- Which side of the road are they on?

• Know where the hill starts

- Where is the last place you can safely pull up in your combination?
- Know where you'll need to be in the right gear at your desired speed

• Limiting corners

- Are there any corners which need to be taken slower than the speed required to manage the grade?

• Other hazards

- Any intersections or driveways?
- Blind corners?
- Areas prone to rockfall or fallen branches?

2. Your Combination



• Your vehicle

- What truck / combination are you driving today?
- Do you know how to use any gear hold or other hill descent features?

• Your weights

- What are your total weights?
- How much weight do you have on the drive?

• Endurance brake

- What type of endurance brake(s) do you have?
- How powerful are they?
- How do you engage them?

• Anything different

- Is this your usual prime mover?
- Are you towing different or more trailers?

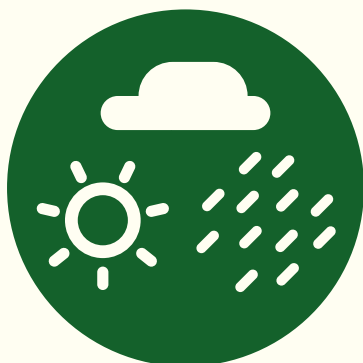
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The measure of your expertise is getting that truck down the 1,000th time out of 1,000. This isn't something you can afford to get wrong, **even once.**”

Adam Judge – Driver Trainer – Booth Transport



3. The Conditions



• Weather

- Is the road going to be dry?
- Will fog reduce your visibility?
- Are the conditions right for black ice?

• Headspace

- How are your fatigue levels?
- Are you in the right frame of mind?
- Are you trying to make time instead of trying to make it to your destination?

• Traffic

- Is it school holidays or return to school?
- Are there any local events happening?

• Other

- Are there any roadworks on the descent?
- Have you heard any oversize loads approaching on the UHF?

