

Because of their size and weight, trucks present unique hazards to other vehicles on the road. One of those hazards is the risk of a “jackknife” accident that can result in multi-vehicle accidents and severe injuries for anyone involved. If you have been injured in a jackknife accident, a [Raleigh truck accident attorney](#) can help you obtain the compensation you need to get back on your feet.

## What Is a Jackknife Accident?

A jackknife accident is a truck accident where the trailer swings out from the cab at a 90-degree angle. It is called a jackknife accident in reference to a jackknife with the cab as the handle and the trailer as the blade. They are caused when the truck has to brake hard and stop suddenly - the momentum of the trailer, which is designed to move freely around the truck to aid in turning, pushes it forward until it swings around the cab. At this point, the driver can no longer control the truck and trailer, which is why jackknife accidents often result in accidents. This is especially true when the truck or trailer is pushed into the oncoming travel lane.

## Jackknife Accidents and Driver Negligence

In some situations, a jackknife accident may be unavoidable. Through no fault of their own, the driver may have no choice but to brake hard to avoid an accident and hope that the truck doesn’t jackknife. Steep inclines, wet roads, and worn brakes can also contribute to jackknife accidents.

While some of these accidents may be unavoidable, the reality is that most accidents are the result of driver negligence. Some of the most common causes of jackknife accidents are as follows:

- Following too closely (tailgating)
- Driving too fast for road conditions
- Improper braking (braking too hard or too late)
- Taking a turn too fast

An experienced Raleigh truck accident attorney can review your case and determine whether the driver's negligence caused your accident.

## When the Trucking Company May Be At Fault

As mentioned above, worn brakes can lead to a jackknife accident. Worn tires are another issue that can lead to the driver braking harder than he should because the truck won't stop. These are examples where the trucking company may have been negligent in maintaining its trucks. While the trucking company is always liable for the negligence of their drivers, they may be additionally liable if the accident was caused by the negligence of the company itself.

## Contact a Raleigh Truck Accident Attorney at Martin & Jones

Truck accidents can lead to severe injuries and [even death](#). Founded 40 years ago, the attorneys at Martin & Jones have the knowledge, skill, and experience you need to get fair compensation for your accident. From medical bills to lost wages to pain and suffering, we work tirelessly to make you whole. To discuss your case and how we can help, call us at 800-662-1234 or [contact us online](#) to schedule a free consultation.