

Passing Trucks Safely

# Demonstrate Turbulent Air to the Front and Rear of a Passing Truck

Supplies: Small block of wood; shallow tray with one inch of sand.

Instructions:

• Move the block of wood through the sand and call attention to how the sand is accumulating to the front and sides of the block of wood, while leaving a void of sand to the rear.

Explain that when a truck is approaching and getting ready to pass, there is the same type of movement of the air. The accumulation of air to the front of the truck can push a vehicle out of a travel lane away from the side of the truck. To the rear of the truck the void of air creates a vacuum that can draw a vehicle into the direction of the truck. The effects from the truck’s air turbulence will be most dominant when a vehicle is in a reduced traction situation.