

Concrete Mixer Truck Accidents in Georgia

The Hazards That Come With Georgia's Most Unstable Heavy Vehicle

Construction in Georgia never stops. Highways widen, subdivisions expand, and downtown corridors get rebuilt season after season. That constant work demands a steady flow of ready-mix concrete, and the trucks that carry it, massive rotating-drum mixers with payload weights that often reach 66,000 pounds or more, move through Metro Atlanta and across every Georgia county to deliver it. These vehicles are among the most dangerous heavy trucks on any public road, not because their drivers are careless, but because the machines themselves present hazards that most drivers, and most carriers, don't fully account for.

At the [Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, P.C.](#), our [Georgia truck accident lawyers](#) investigate all categories of commercial vehicle crashes, including the concrete mixer wrecks that cluster around Atlanta's construction corridors, highway interchanges, and residential build-out zones. These cases are more technically demanding than a standard tractor-trailer wreck, and the injuries they produce are just as devastating.

We've recovered over \$1 billion for [Georgia families](#), and our attorneys bring the same investigative approach to every heavy vehicle case, from the first evidence preservation request to the final resolution.

Why a Rotating Drum Changes Everything About This Truck's Stability

A concrete mixer doesn't simply carry a heavy load. It carries a load that moves. The drum rotates continuously during transit to keep the concrete mix from separating and hardening. That rotation means the center of gravity shifts constantly as the drum turns, and the fluid weight inside sloshes in response to acceleration, braking, and turning. Engineers call this "dynamic load shifting," and it turns every maneuver the driver makes into a negotiation between the cab's momentum and the drum's moving weight.

Picture a construction crew finishing a pour near the I-285 and Camp Creek interchange, and a mixer truck leaving the job site to return for another load. As the driver accelerates onto the ramp, the drum's residual weight shifts toward the cab's rear. On a curve, that shift can tip the vehicle's balance well past the threshold where the driver's steering input can compensate. At highway speeds, the consequences are catastrophic for anyone in an adjacent lane.

Physical characteristics that make concrete mixers more dangerous than standard trucks include:

- **Continuously Shifting Load Weight:** Unlike a flatbed or tanker carrying a stable mass, a rotating drum mixer creates oscillating weight transfer on every curve, incline, and braking event, taxing suspension systems designed for static loads.
- **Extremely High Center Of Gravity When Loaded:** A full drum sits well above the frame, and the elevated mass dramatically reduces the truck's resistance to rollover, particularly on exit ramps, crowned roads, and uneven pavement near active construction zones.

- **Shorter Stopping Distances Than Drivers Expect:** The drum's rotational momentum contributes to the vehicle's overall inertia during braking, extending the stopping distance in ways that catch drivers off guard when traffic slows suddenly ahead.
- **Limited Rear And Side Visibility:** The drum dominates the driver's mirror views and creates [truck blind-spot zones](#) that are particularly severe when the truck is navigating narrow construction-site access roads onto public streets.
- **Drum Spillage And Residue On Roadways:** Concrete washout and overflow from overfilled or improperly sealed drums can create slick patches on Georgia highway surfaces, endangering motorcyclists, cyclists, and cars driving behind the truck.

The [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#) regulates concrete mixer trucks as commercial motor vehicles subject to hours-of-service requirements, inspection standards, and driver qualification rules, just as it does tractor-trailers. The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) tracks large truck crash fatalities annually, and the data consistently show that rollover crashes account for a disproportionate share of occupant deaths in heavy vehicle accidents. But because mixer trucks typically operate on shorter routes and return to their dispatch yard multiple times a day, drivers often aren't monitored with the same rigor as long-haul operators. That gap in oversight creates real risks.

The Liability Questions a Concrete Mixer Crash Produces

Concrete mixer crashes generate liability questions that reach beyond the driver and the ready-mix company. The vehicles themselves are complex machines maintained by multiple parties, and the construction projects they serve involve layers of contractors, subcontractors, and site managers who share responsibility for how these trucks enter and exit job sites.

Georgia's comparative fault framework, codified under [O.C.G.A. § 51-12-33](#), allows claims against every party whose negligence contributed to the crash. Our attorneys pursue all of them.

The following are parties who may be named in a concrete mixer crash investigation:

- **The Ready-Mix Company And Its Driver:** The carrier employs the driver and owns or operates the truck. If the driver was fatigued, improperly licensed, or operating a vehicle with known mechanical defects, the carrier faces direct liability. [Truck driver fatigue](#) is common among concrete truck operators who run multiple loads per shift under production pressure.
- **The Construction Project Owner Or General Contractor:** If the crash occurred when the truck was entering or exiting a job site through a poorly designed access point, an inadequately flagged construction entrance, or a site that forced trucks to make dangerous turns onto public roads, the contractor who controlled that site may carry responsibility.
- **The Maintenance Provider:** Mixer trucks require specialized maintenance, including drum bearing inspections, hydraulic system checks, and brake system audits. A third-party maintenance company that cleared a truck with failing [brakes](#) may share liability for the crash.

- **The Drum Or Truck Manufacturer:** If the crash traces to a defect in the drum assembly, its mounting system, or the hydraulic controls that regulate rotation speed, product liability claims against the manufacturer may be available alongside negligence claims against the operator.
- **A Site Manager Or Dispatcher Who Overloaded The Drum:** Exceeding the manufacturer's rated capacity for a concrete drum increases the center of gravity and the dynamic load shifting that causes rollovers. A dispatcher or site manager who ordered an overloaded delivery may have created the condition that made the crash inevitable.

Serious Injuries That Follow These Crashes

Rollovers and wide-turn sweeps by concrete mixers produce injury patterns that surgeons recognize immediately. A vehicle weighing over 60,000 pounds that tips onto a passenger car produces forces that compress the occupant space in fractions of a second. [Crush injuries from truck accidents](#) are among the most severe outcomes. [Spinal cord damage](#) from axial loading during vehicle compression can produce permanent paralysis. [Traumatic brain injuries](#) occur when occupant heads strike structural components during rollover. [Internal injuries](#) from organ compression go undetected in early hospital assessments, making follow-up imaging critical.

Survivors of concrete mixer crashes often face a long recovery that includes multiple surgeries, extended rehabilitation, and permanent functional limitations. Georgia law allows recovery for all of it, including medical expenses, lost earnings, [lost earning capacity](#), and pain and suffering.

When a crash is fatal, the family may bring a wrongful death claim under Georgia's wrongful death statute. The [difference between a wrongful death claim and a survival action](#) matters, and families deserve attorneys who know how to pursue both simultaneously.

Evidence That Disappears After a Concrete Mixer Crash

Ready-mix companies operate on tight margins and high vehicle turnover. A truck involved in a crash may be repaired, resold, or scrapped within weeks if no legal hold is in place. The onboard data systems, electronic logging devices, and [black box data](#) that document speed, braking, and drum rotation activity at the time of the crash can be overwritten or destroyed without a preservation demand.

Our attorneys send evidence preservation letters immediately upon being retained. We request the driver's qualification file, dispatch records, maintenance logs, inspection certificates, and any in-cab camera footage before those records disappear. The same approach that works in [standard truck crash evidence preservation](#) applies here, but the timeline is even more compressed for vehicles that return to active service quickly.

Damages Available to Georgia Concrete Mixer Crash Victims

Georgia law allows crash victims to recover both economic and non-economic losses. Economic losses include current and future medical costs, rehabilitation expenses, home modification costs, lost income, and the projected loss of future earnings. Non-economic losses include pain

and suffering, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, and, where applicable, loss of consortium for a spouse or family member.

In cases involving gross negligence, such as a carrier that knew a truck was mechanically deficient and dispatched it anyway, or a driver who falsified hours-of-service logs before a fatigue-related crash, Georgia law allows [punitive damages](#) under O.C.G.A. § 51-12-5.1 to punish the conduct and deter future violations.

If you or a family member was hurt in a concrete mixer truck crash in Georgia, [contact us](#) today. We represent crash victims on a contingency-fee arrangement, which means our clients pay no attorney's fees unless we deliver a settlement or verdict in their favor.