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## Lesson Five: Convex Mirrors



## **A. What is a Convex Mirror?**

### **1. A convex mirror is a round or square mirror with a raised center**

- a. Vision
  - i. It covers a larger area than a flat mirror, but is not as clear as a flat mirror
  - ii. Objects appear closer than they actually are
- b. Mirrors can be used to check
  - i. The lower outside of the truck
  - ii. The rear tires
  - iii. Road hazards
  - iv. Cars or other vehicles

## **B. Requirements and Standards**

### **1. ODOT standards**

- a. Require two convex mirrors, each eight inches in diameter, on all trucks where vision is cut off by a dump bed or other means
- b. If vision is not cut off, a convex mirror is not required

## **C. Quartering the Mirror**

### **1. Distance is judged by**

- a. The size of the image in the mirror
- b. The position of the image in the mirror

### **2. In class demonstration**

- a. Divide the mirror into quarters
  - i. The distance and position of other objects or vehicles visible in the mirror can be determined by where they are in the mirror
  - ii. If passing a vehicle, it is safe to return to resume the lane when the image in the right convex mirror is in the upper left portion of the mirror



Figure 5-1 Convex mirror (quartered)

- b. When making a right turn with no reference point
  - i. Determine a fixed point on the ground
  - ii. Begin to make the turn when it appears to be at the five o'clock position in the convex mirror

#### **D. Maintenance**

##### **1. Proper maintenance includes**

- a. Cleaning the mirrors and windows
- b. Proper adjustment
- c. Inspection of the mirrors and mounting hardware