

Sharing some information with your drivers:

Drivers want to be communicated with. Simple things can avoid collisions. A quick briefing from a dispatcher when he/she meets with the driver and assigns a load. A quick verbal on road conditions and reported collisions or road closures in the direction the driver is headed.

If you have a gate house that is manned again share that information with the driver and tell them to have a good trip.

Mention watch out for fog or black ice might be just the trick to avoid a costly collision.

Sooner or later drivers will reciprocate with weather and road information to be shared with other drivers.

Weather that is obvious at your front door can be different a few miles down the road.

Keep your drivers safe, and happy. The bonus of this is happy drivers and satisfied customers.

Last winter I seen an interesting point as I drove past a long haul carrier. Out in the driver's car parking lot there were employees in the lot with snow brushes cleaning off the cars. Think about it your drivers have just finished a hard day or week and are tired wanting to get home. This small thing can go a long way with the driver the next time you require a favor.

MEDICAL REMINDER:

For anyone that is on medication please take inventory of your medication supply to make sure that you do not run out over the Holiday time.

For anyone that will be travelling on this Holiday Season even if it is just a day or a few hours I suggest to take additional medication just in case you are stranded and unable to immediately travel home.



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for past issues on the
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many other interesting
articles.*

If you have an industry article to share please forward it to
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OLD TIME TRUCKERS:

I got my start as a full time driver in 1972. I have a little history in the industry prior to that working on the dock at Day & Ross Transport in Waterloo. As well I worked a summer as a swamper for Tippet & Richardson Van Lines in Waterloo. So what I am saying is that in that time I have seen and heard a thing or two.

On a road test while making conversation with the driver and him telling me about all his experience going back over 3 million miles and 40 years, he asked me what makes of trucks I have driven.

I told him my first trucks would have been Ford and then Dodge. He replied no I am talking about tractor trailers. I told him as well I drove a GMC and yes they were tractor trailer combinations.

Either his memory was not as good as he was telling me or he was not truthful about his years of experience as a commercial driver in Canada.

Truck drivers have some good interesting stories but I really think some of the names of the characters over the years have been changed. Why not I do that. As a trainer to get a message across and to keep the interest of the students in the group I will share a story and of course sometimes I will twist it slightly to get the safety message out the group.

But on a road test, or a job interview that is not the right place for those stories as a person telling the stories is falsifying the facts. Now I suggest in these cases you listen close to the stories and make notes as these stories may contradict some of the information you have already collected on a reference check. That could be years of experience. I have had drivers tell me about working for a carrier that was not included on the resume and when you question they reply with "Oh that was with a temp service" that was also over looked as being included on the resume.

We have all heard it for years now that the good professional drivers are all working and in the bigger scheme of things I would agree.

Do not be satisfied to just fill that empty seat with a driver listen close to conversation in the interview process/

Safety Training

Telling is not training.

Don't think as a teacher; think as a facilitator and coach.

Author Unknown

2018 Safety New Year's Resolution

The **Annual New Year's Resolution** makes it easy to prepare your fleet for a seamless transition into 2018, and paves the way for year-round ongoing success by highlighting the "must do" steps taken by best-in-class fleet managers around the country including:

- Risk Management Assessment
- Benchmarking and Setting Goals

This is the something that has been a part of the winter newsletter for a few years. I have to admit that I am not a person to set New Year's Resolutions but do believe in setting goals for ourselves especially as a Safety Manager.

A few goals to think about:

- Reduce the numbers of collisions in the fleet in 2018. (set and amount in terms of percentage)
- Reduce and cut lost time injuries in half for 2018.
- Improve driver retention

Making the list was the easy part now the big questions is what are you going to do to make these goals attainable.

May I suggest talking with Transportation Safety & Compliance Solutions and working together to make it all happen successfully in 2018.

Near Miss Reporting

Promote an environment where honest errors can be openly reported and learned from.

Have you prepared your Terminal Facility for the upcoming Holidays?

It is not uncommon for thieves to target truck terminals over the holidays as they know it is a good opportunity as no one is there. Make sure that you take extra precaution to secure the trucks and items of value at your terminal. If your units do not have anti-siphon devices or locking caps, instruct the drivers not to fill the units at the end of the day. Make sure that all security alarms are in working order. Walk the perimeter of the lot to make sure that security fencing is in good condition. Move units and all other material such as pallets, tires, etc far enough away from the fence so they cannot be used to climb on to get over the fence. Consider blocking the entrance and exits to the lot so units cannot be stolen. Throughout the holidays assign management personnel to check the terminal randomly. Using a little prevention and common sense can deter a thief from striking your facility.



At this time I would like to take the opportunity to wish all my readers a Very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year to you, your family, and your staff.

I would like to thank all my customers for their patronage over the year. I am looking forward to working with you again in 2018.

Sincerely
Mike Kroetsch

Owner

**Transportation Safety &
Compliance Solutions**