

Reduce Exposure to Crashes

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TRUCKING FLEETS *SEEM TO HAVE A FEW RISK-REDUCING FACTORS IN COMMON. HOW MANY OF THESE RISK STRATEGIES DOES YOUR COMPANY HAVE IN PLACE?*



KEYS TO SUCCESS

- **Utilize background checks on all drivers.** Only hire drivers with clean driving records. Utilize the FMCSA's Pre-Employment Screening (PSP) tool to make more informed hiring decisions by reviewing a driver's crash and inspection history.
- **Run frequent motor vehicle records (MVRs) on all drivers to ensure your fleet drivers stay qualified.** Successful fleet companies know who is driving their vehicles. Compare current driving records with established company standards. Run MVR's more frequently than the required annual check; consider biannually or even quarterly, if possible. Move disqualified employees into non-driving positions before a crash occurs.
- **Provide a thorough, formalized road test for driver candidates.** To accurately gauge skill, perform a more extensive road test of at least 50 miles in length to allow driver candidates to settle into their natural driving habits. A trained, qualified CDL driver should evaluate the applicants' driving skills. Simulate the tasks the driver would typically perform as part of their job duties.
- **Slow it down.** Successful fleets know that governing their top speed to below 70 mph can significantly decrease crash frequency, as well as improve fuel economy.
- **Implement electronic logging.** Fleets using electronic logs experience improved equipment utilization, enhanced management oversight and better route optimization while increasing fleet productivity. These systems help to reduce fatigued driving and improve compliance with hours of service (HOS) regulations.
- **Develop and document following distance training.** Space saves lives. Conduct following distance training for all company drivers based on the timed interval rule. The farther the following distance the driver is able to achieve, the more room the driver has to react in a dynamic driving environment. Drivers who leave adequate space around their vehicles reduce the likelihood of rear-end collisions.
- **Establish a company goal of 100% usage of seat belts.** Track the company's progress and report on drivers' success. Drivers who don't follow the law on buckling up may take other safety shortcuts as well, putting your company at risk.
- **Obligate drivers to partially share in the costs of a preventable crash.** Establish an escrow account per driver to help defray a percentage of the claim deductible. By holding drivers partially responsible for the costs of a preventable "at-fault" crash or claim as part of your safety program, loss frequency can be reduced.
- **Share safety results with the same importance and frequency as business results.** Communicate safety performance results to drivers on a frequent basis so they are aware of how they each play a role in the company safety record.
- **Implement a formal adverse weather plan.** Monitor weather conditions and routes to determine if vehicles should be re-routed or parked temporarily while poor weather passes.
- **Prohibit the use of U-Turns.** U-turn maneuvers take the average truck at least 40 seconds to complete. During this maneuver, the vehicle is perpendicular to the lanes of travel and significantly increases the risk of severe under ride crashes, particularly when poor visibility is a factor. Train your drivers to plan ahead to avoid U-turns across lanes of travel.

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