

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

R&M Transportation/Sortino's Transportation

December 2012

Cargo Theft and Piracy on the Road

Cargo theft has been around for centuries, from pirate's ships at sea to bandits on horseback robbing stagecoaches. Unfortunately, crime has evolved along with methods to carry the cargo. Trucks have replaced horse-drawn carriages and today's bandits are organized into international crime syndicates. Cargo theft is an international problem affecting consumers and businesses alike. In the United States, where an estimated \$30 billion in cargo is stolen annually, cargo thieves are sophisticated and organized. According to a report from Freight watch the price of beef, pork and chicken in the US has increased since the second quarter of 2010 driving up the thefts of meat products in the country. No Driver, Carrier, or Shipper is exempt from being a target, but there are steps to take to reduce your risk.

- Lock the trailer door
- Don't single yourself out, always park where there are other trucks
- Park in a well lit area visible to others at all times of the day
- Do not talk about your load or delivery time
- Never drop a loaded trailer
- Report suspicious behavior or onlookers if you think you are being followed call 911
- Deliver on time to avoid unnecessary delays
- Communicate with dispatch

Don't ever think you are not at Risk. Always be on Alert

The GAMECHANGER CHALLENGE

LEADERSHIP.  OPERATIONS.  SAFETY.



IMPORTANT WINTER DRIVING ALERT FOR ALL INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND FLEET DRIVERS

As everyone is aware, we are approaching the winter driving season and some states (particularly Wyoming and other plains states) have already had snow and ice and very wintry driving conditions. We have unfortunately seen an increase in the number of jackknife related crashes and incidents within the Roadrunner fleet, some incidents involving other vehicles and other incidents involving trucks getting stuck in ditches and suffering significant damage and load delays.

It is time for everyone to regroup and take a few moments to review some basic winter driving safety tips.

What are the most common reasons for winter crashes? Do we blame it on the weather or other drivers? Unfortunately, of the incidents we have already incurred this month, all were the result of driving too fast for conditions.

WINTER DRIVING = SLOW DOWN!!!

Most frequent reasons for winter crashes according to Great West Casualty Insurance:

Limited or reduced visibility

Limited or reduced traction

Unable to judge safe speed for road conditions

Aggressive braking on a slick road

Poor shifting skills on a slick road

Poor negotiation of curve

Failure to prepare vehicle properly

Failure to plan route properly

Failure to adapt to changing weather patterns

**MAINTAIN YOUR LANE AND AVOID FREQUENT LANE CHANGES
CHECK THE FORECAST AND HWY ALERTS AND
CONSIDER ALTERNATE ROUTES**

FMCSA Implements Improvements to its Safety Measurement System

Goodbye to Cargo BASIC

The Vehicle Maintenance BASIC gets another 100-plus violations that used to be in the Cargo category, meaning Vehicle Maintenance, which already was the largest in terms of violations, is now even more so.

Hello Hazmat BASIC

The new Hazmat BASIC includes the hazmat-related violations from the old Cargo BASIC and adds more. Perhaps most importantly, this BASIC has an intervention threshold score of 80 for all carriers, regardless of their carrier classification. This differs from the other BASICs, where a carrier who is considered a "hazmat carrier" is subject to a stricter threshold than a non-hazmat carrier.

Because of concerns about the changes, the agency will keep the hazmat BASIC scores private for a year.

Changing the name of the Fatigued Driving BASIC to the Hours-of-Service (HOS) Compliance BASIC to more accurately reflect violations contained within the BASIC.

Aligning the severity weight of paper and electronic logbook violations equally on the SMS for consistency purposes.

Changes in Violations and Severity

There have been a number of changes in the violations themselves, both adding violations and changing severity/points values. Some of the main ones:

- In the Driver Fitness BASIC, violations related to driving with a suspended or disqualified CDL have been split up so it is clear if they are non-safety related, such as licenses being revoked for nonpayment of child support.
- In the Unsafe Driving BASIC, speeding violations for 1-5 mph over the limit are being removed.
- There will be better alignment of the SMS with intermodal equipment provider regulations, taking into account whether the IEP has a DOT number, if the driver did a pretrip inspection, and whether the violation should have been apparent to the driver during the pretrip. The FMCSA believes this actually will result in an increase in violations for motor carriers.
- In the SMS display, crashes with injuries will be separated from fatal crashes.

Please see Linda in Safety for your CSA Driver Scores- Avoid Violations – Don't be the driver that puts our scores above the intervention level. EVERY POINT COUNTS!!!!!!!!!!

From the Recruiting Department.....

RECRUITING BONUS FOR REFERRING DRIVERS – MAKE SURE THEY HAVE YOUR TRUCK NUMBER OR YOUR NAME WHEN THEY COME THRU ORIENTATION. YOU CAN EARN \$500.00 FOR REFERRING A NEW DRIVER.
HAVE THEM CALL MISSY IN THE RECRUITING DEPT EXT 244!!!!

Thanks

From the Recruiting Dept

Note from Payroll Department

In order to process payroll in a timely manner during the Christmas Holiday we will need you to turn in all loads NO LATER THAN THURSDAY AT NOON DECEMBER 20TH. During this time there will be No late payroll or exceptions, making it possible for us to pay you on time! Thank you so much for your cooperation! If you have any questions call.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Thank you,

Melissa, Beth and Michelle

Professional Drivers: From HOS

I have been told by drivers it is difficult to do it all, on time with pickups and deliveries as well as be legal at the same time. But that is what most of the drivers at R-M do. Thank you to all those drivers.

In HOS show on-duty time on pre and post trips, fueling, DOT and random, shops and every loading, unloading, drop and hooks, trailer swapping and accidents.

Remember you can be on-duty after your 14 is up, like to show a post trip, you just can't drive after your 14.

My hope is each and every driver gets home safe, to be with Family and friends for the holidays.

Stay safe and legal.

Thank you for all you do for R-M

Merry Christmas!

Paul ext 264

Weather watch: From Maintenance

Today's technology allows all of to peek ahead at inclement weather. Sites like weatherbug.com and accuweather.com will give you extended forecasts for days you drive. All states have DOT sites to check routes and weather cams to let you know of current road conditions. If you are at home, watch the weather if you can for the next week ahead. Leaving early during the winter hours may enable you to drive the majority of your run during daylight hours. Visibility is almost always better during the day. Stop in a safe place to do a quick walk around before you run into a snow storm.

Make sure your washer fluid is full. Clear your dash of obstacles to ensure good airflow from your air vents. Periodically check your airline springs when driving thru the snow to make sure your airlines do not drag from heavy snow or ice accumulation. Keep a metal hammer in case you need to break ice on the springs or on the brakes to release them. Slow down, drive smoothly, and use less throttle to keep from breaking traction. Buckle up and drive safe.

Safety News

Log Scanning

We are in the process of Switching to a new Scanning on any Paper Logs. We will be using an outside scanning program called RAIR. More news will follow on the process of this but looking at implementing it soon.

Backing

GET OUT AND LOOK

Our number one occurring accident is backing and it can be prevented by Using Good judgment and following Safe Backing Procedures.

Inclement Weather is here and we need you to Drive Safely, Buckle up and Drive only as fast as weather and traffic allows. Have Safe and Happy Holidays.

Congratulatins to Gayle Kile for winning the \$300.00 RoadSide inspection Bonus

Recipe for Christmas Dinner

Red Velvet Poke Cake



Ingredients

- 1 box Red Velvet cake mix
- Ingredients needed to make cake (eggs, oil & water)
- 2 (3.4 oz.) boxes instant Cheesecake-flavored pudding
- 4 cups milk
- 1 (8 oz.) tub frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 10 Oreo cookies, crushed (optional)

Instructions

- Make cake per instructions on the box and let cool
- With a wooden spoon poke holes in the cake
- Mix pudding with milk and spread on cake pushing into the holes in cake
- Spread Whipped topping on cake
- Sprinkle the crushed Oreos on top of cool whip.
- Refrigerate and enjoy

JUST FOR KIDS

