

In the Safety Zone™

Our newsletter dedicated to truck driver safety awareness.

Volume 11 Issue 6

December 2018



Copyright 2018 TransForce, Inc.

'TIS THE SEASON... FOR TRAFFIC

Winter is coming and that means the holidays are just around the corner! While many think of bright lights and festive gatherings with friends and family, there is one thing that we could all do without: the traffic!



Just last year the American Automobile Association reported the highest year-end travel volume ever recorded in the United States, with nearly 110 million Americans traveling fifty miles or more between December 23rd and December 31st. Of those 110 million travelers, over 91% made their journeys via automobile. That's 97 million people on the road over a nine day period, and that doesn't count the trucking industry!

Think that's interesting? Here are a few more holiday travel statistics from 2017:

- **More than 35% of drivers in the U.S.** report increased stress levels on the road during holiday travel.
- **Average trip duration is increased** by nearly three times the normal duration in major metro areas around the U.S.
- **Almost half of holiday travelers** travel outside

of their home state to celebrate with family and friends, which increases the likelihood that drivers are less familiar with the roadways on which they are traveling during these times.

So as the time for increased travel volume approaches remember to take these stressed, weary, and maybe even lost drivers into account. Increase your following distance, expect the unexpected, and stay calm in order to avoid any traffic mishaps during this holiday season!

FROM BEYOND THE CAB: WINTER HAZARDS TO AVOID

We all know that a great deal of the risks involved with trucking and winter driving are out on the road, but there are many places outside of the cab where truckers might find hazardous conditions during the winter. Make sure to use extra care this season when in the following situations:

- **Climbing in or out of the cab.** Wet and icy conditions make this a potentially slippery situation. Use extra care and always employ the three-point system when entering or exiting the tractor.
- **Loading and unloading areas.** Watch for ice on ramps, around docks, and on stairs/ladders on the yard to avoid a slip-and-fall incident.



Reminder: Report all Accidents, Injuries or Incident to your Branch immediately. Delays in reporting impact your ability to remember key details and can also impact regulatory requirements and slow down insurance reporting requirements.

Volume 11 Issue 6



Copyright 2018 TransForce, Inc.

THE KEYS TO WINTER DRIVING

We all know that winter weather can challenge even



the most experienced truck drivers on the road today, but did you know that traffic incidents involving truckers increase by over 15% during the holiday season? Low visibility, poor road conditions, and

unpredictable drivers play a significant role in increasing the challenge presented to truck drivers in wintry weather; however, there are several actions that can be taken to maximize your safety on the road this season. Here are just a few tips for winter trucking that can make all the difference in nasty conditions:

- **Stay clean, be seen.** Regularly ensure that all lights and reflective surfaces on the tractor and trailer are clean and visible before beginning your run.
- **Keep a safe distance.** Leave plenty of room between you and other drivers. Buffer zones help keep everyone safe.
- **Don't follow tail lights.** In icy and low visibility situations, if you can see tail lights you're too close. If the leader makes an error, you may follow.
- **Use good judgment.** If you feel conditions are unsafe, get off the road until they improve.

IF THE TRACTOR AIN'T HAPPY, NOBODY'S HAPPY

The conditions outside of your tractor aren't the only things to be mindful of when making runs through wintry weather.

It is equally important that you ensure that your vehicle is in top condition prior to getting out on the road. When low temperatures hit and snow storms pass through, towing services and roadside assistance become more scarce and wait times become much longer.



Remember these tips to ensure you and your rig are prepared for anything:

- **Check batteries.** Keep an eye on your batteries in low temps, especially during start-ups.
- **Keep diesel tanks topped off.** This provides more weight towards the front of the tractor and is also a smart move should an emergency situation occur.
- **Thorough pre- and post-trip inspections.** Spending that extra 15 minutes on inspection could be the difference between a tow or field service, or worse.
- **Listen to your rig.** Don't ignore any abnormalities or warnings. If there is a problem, check it.



Driven by Higher Standards

Reminder: Report all Accidents, Injuries or Incident to your Branch immediately. Delays in reporting impact your ability to remember key details and can also impact regulatory requirements and slow down insurance reporting requirements.

Volume 11 Issue 6



Copyright 2018 TransForce, Inc.

A WORD OF THANKS FROM TRANSFORCE

This holiday season TransForce would like to take the time to extend a sincere and heartfelt “Thank You” to all of our drivers who have helped make such a big impact not only on our operations, but in the lives of millions who rely on truckers just like you to deliver on-time, every time. At TransForce we realize that you are not just delivering people their goods or commodities, but so much more. Those moments of joy that we all share each year around the holidays would not be possible if not for the hard work and sacrifices you make, and for you, we are grateful. We wish for a safe and happy holiday season to you and yours!

TransForce 2019 SAFETY CALENDARS ARE HERE

Drop into your local branch office to pick up your calendar today!



Driven by Higher Standards

5520 Cherokee Avenue
Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22312

Volume 11 Issue 6



Copyright 2018 TransForce, Inc.

TransForce has a fantastic driver referral program!

Earn \$500 for Each Driver You Refer

(\$250 after driver works 200 hours)

(\$250 after driver works 400 hours)

TransForce needs more good drivers to fill local, regional and OTR openings.

If you know a driver who would like:

\$\$\$ Flexibility in work assignments

\$\$\$ Good, steady weekly pay and company benefits

\$\$\$ To work for the biggest employer in town

Tell that driver about employment with TransForce. Give the driver your name and your local office phone number.



Driven by Higher Standards