

W.W. Transport INC.

Safety Newsletter

April 2019



MARCH SAFETY LEADERS

Congratulations to this month's Safety Leaders!

Jared Baumann- Ogden, UT
Kenneth Dees- North Texas
Jimmy James- North Texas
Eric McBride- Reefer Division
Israel Morales- South Texas
David White- Newton, NC

Tony Britt- Doraville, GA
Ricky Downard- Cement Division
Scott Link- Burlington, IA
Michael Merritt- Reefer Division
Derrick Reed- Newton, NC
Trey Brandmeyer- Burlington, IA

Keep up the great work!

Roadside Hazards

March 2019 was a month of tragedy for the highway community in Colorado.

On the 13th, Colorado State Patrol Corporal Dan Groves died while assisting a motorist who had slid off the highway, only to be hit by another car that lost control. Then, on the 17th, Colorado Department of Transportation worker Eric Hill was struck by a front-end loader in a work zone fatality.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) tells us that about every three days there is a fatal work zone crash involving a large truck in the U.S. And state law enforcement officers everywhere will

tell you that their most dangerous place to work is at roadside. However, something is being done to increase awareness of work zone safety such as the National Work Zone Awareness week that recently passed on April 8-12. This is a reminder to highway travelers that work zones demand higher vigilance as people perform their work very close to the roadside.

Roadside activity, such as law enforcement assisting motorists, drivers swapping seats, or parents accompanying children on a roadside potty break demand awareness, too. If present, law enforcement will have their flashers on, to be sure. But unlike work zones, there won't be road signs alerting traffic to upcoming activity. So, car doors may suddenly open, kids may dash around a car into traffic, or motorists may pull

back onto the road without fully checking the lane. When you see roadside activity ahead, check if your left-hand lane is open, signal your intentions, and move over to give others the space they need to be safe. Your courteous action will likely cause others behind to move over, too.

Highway safety is about more than what is directly on the highway itself. It demands increased awareness when work zones and roadside activity may unexpectedly bring people and machinery into harm's way.



CORRECTIVE LENSES RESTRICTION ON YOUR CDL?



Take a glance at your CDL, if you see that there is a requirement to wear corrective lenses, then you must wear them **at all times** while operating your commercial motor vehicle. During a roadside inspection a driver required to wear corrective lenses may receive a violation if they are caught without them. If you no longer require corrective lenses and can pass a vision test, then it is time to update your restriction to avoid any unnecessary fines or driver fitness violations during an inspection.

The **Driver Fitness** category is not related to a driver's physical attributes such as age, weight, or flexibility. The primary focus of **Driver Fitness** is to ensure a driver is qualified to operate a commercial vehicle according to the Department of Transportation standards such as:

Active CDL (no suspension or downgrade)

Active Medical Card (updated with the driver's state)

Operating within restrictions (Wearing glasses if required; automatic transmission restriction)

As a professional driver, keeping in line with **Driver Fitness** requirements will keep your CSA score low and maintain your status as a qualified driver.

Before you head out on your next trip, take a quick second and pre-trip your qualifications. Double check your medical card's expiration date and review your license restrictions to make sure you're operating within them. If you are found by a DOT officer to be operating outside those requirements, you may be placed out of service and receive points that will reflect on your CSA record for up to two years.



April Milestones

We appreciate your work for all these years and many best wishes on the anniversary of your service this April!

Ken Rose, 20 years! Manager, Wood River
Becky (Fergi) Ferguson, 12 years! Reefer Manager
Michael McLaughlin, 10 years! Newton, NC
Robert Macropoulos, 9 years! Wood River, IL
Reuben Strunk, 9 years! Manager, Martins Creek
Michael Vetovitz, 7 years! Columbus, OH
James Spears, 6 years! Reefer Division

Terri Russel, 15 years! Controller
Joel Jens, 11 years! Burlington Shop
Timothy Weber, 10 years! Commerce City, Co
David Snakenberg, 9 years! Cement Division
James Macans, 7 years! Burlington, IA
David Harman, 6 years! Manager, Martins Creek
Don Ward, 6 years! Reefer Division

No Texting While Driving

The title may sound simple enough, however many people still find it easy to reach for their cellphone to text while driving.

Commercial motor vehicle drivers are prohibited from texting while driving. A text is considered: manually entering alphanumeric text into, or **reading a text** from an electronic device. This includes, but isn't limited to, short message service, e-mail, a command or request to access a Web page, or pressing more than a single button to make or receive a call. Even holding a phone is restricted for CMV drivers.

So how can you use your phone and be in the clear?

- Use an earpiece or the speaker phone function
- Before you drive, create a one-button-press dial for a contact you know you'll need while driving.

Using your mobile phone while driving increases your odds of being involved in a safety critical event (crash, near crash, unintentional lane deviation) by 23 times. Drivers who text take their eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph, 4.6 seconds can cover a football field, imagine doing that with your eyes closed.

If you get caught texting while driving or using a hand held device, you can expect a fine of up to \$2,750, possible disqualification for multiple offenses, and up to 10-points on your CDL which, in some states, may result in suspension of privileges. If your license is suspended, you can lose your driving job.

Monetarily, those are bad deals. However, what is more important is staying safe and staying alive. Families can lose loved ones when a fatality occurs due to texting while driving distractions.

If you need to use a cell phone, pulling over is your safest bet. Making it home is more important.

Employee Spotlight



Derrick Reed

Newton, North Carolina

Derrick Reed is the lead driver in Newton, North Carolina and also performs Terminal Manager duties for his location. Born and raised near Hickory in a small town called Vale, Derrick's hometown is a

heartbeat away from our Newton terminal. Derrick has been driving for W.W. Transport for about 4 years, but has been in the trucking industry

for over 14. He says he's "hauled a little bit of everything," but this is his first time working with pneumatic trailers. Asked how he feels about working with pneumatics, Derrick says he prefers it and "wouldn't trade it for anything." Derrick says it's tough to pinpoint one thing he enjoys about trucking but thinks the daily change of scenery is what keeps him going. Derrick's advice for anyone new to W.W. Transport or trucking industry is to keep an open schedule. He says, "flexibility pays off in the long run, and you'll make a lot of money to go with it."

Jassen Ahlers

New Braunfels, Texas

Jassen Ahlers is member of our New Braunfels Terminal and is from a town called Portland, Texas which is located 2.5 hours south of New Braunfels and approximately 3 miles North of Corpus Christi, Texas. Jassen has worked for W.W. Transport for what will be four years in June. In the past Jassen has delivered flatbed loads, primarily steel pipes, going from San Antonio on south. A typical day for Jassen starts anywhere between 1 and 6 am, depending on the

load, he then delivers flour to many different customers in and around the San Antonio area. His manager, Carlos Henriquez, said, "Jassen is a great driver, and he is always on time." Jassen considers the constant changing sights he gets to see the best part about driving. His advice for new drivers is to be patient. Jassen says, "Have patience and be safe. Those two things go hand in hand. Patience is the number one thing you need in trucking."