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## SAFETY BULLETIN



March 11, 2016

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### Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday!!!

Make sure that all of your drivers are aware that daylight savings time changes on Sunday. Caution route drivers especially that the amount of daylight will change according to their stops with the change.

Also, remember to change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors as well. Most sleep experts recommend a minimum of 7 hours of sleep a night. Many people sleep an average of 40 minutes less Sunday night, March 13 after Daylight Saving Time returns. Plan ahead to avoid being sleepy. Sleep in Sunday morning and nap Sunday afternoon.

## Preventing a Single Vehicle Accident!

A single-vehicle accident is any driving mishap where only one vehicle is involved. This can include veering off the road and hitting a tree, a rollover crash, or damage caused by animals or debris on the road. Bad weather, poor visibility and distracted driving can all be contributing factors, so drivers must be alert when they take the wheel. Advances in Technology can be both a positive and a negative when we discuss distracted driving. In a recent meeting with engineers reviewing the new 2017 model year trucks, I found that some commercial motor vehicles with automated transmissions in the future will have the shift controls integrated into the steering wheel to allow the driver to shift the unit without moving their eyes from the road.

### Now is a good time to remind your drivers of the following tips:

#### **Prepare for your trip before you turn the key.**

Many things can slow you down en route to your destination, so it pays to spend some thoughtful preparation time to help ensure safe travels.

#### **Check the weather report.**

If you cross county or state lines, you may experience changes in weather patterns. Be prepared to handle rain, snow or other conditions that may affect your ability to drive.

#### **Start safely.**

Get familiar with the vehicle controls and adjust any settings, as needed. These include seat position, mirrors and steering wheel. Also, always keep your seat belt fastened while driving.

#### **Allow more time to travel.**

This will reduce your urge to speed up if you are slowed by unpredictable circumstances.



**Turn your headlights on.**

Not only does it enhance your vision, but it also helps others to see you.

**Stay focused to help avoid distractions.**

Distracted driving can rob your ability to react quickly. Stay focused on the road, including what you can see in front of you and in your mirrors.

**Prepare for anticipated distractions**

Like money for a toll booth, mealtimes or the need to reach for sunglasses. Refrain from eating, drinking and smoking while driving whenever possible.

**Monitor your surroundings.**

As you drive, be mindful of lane changes, traffic signs and signals, curves, road work and pedestrians. Seeing a situation develop early will give you more time to react, if necessary.

**Turn off your cell phone.**

Operating a CMV with a NON-Hands free cell phone is a federal offense and in most states a violation. Even a phone that is on sitting on the passenger seat can be a distraction as it emits sounds and vibrations distracting the drivers attention. Approximately **five seconds** is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field blindfolded

**Take a break.**

If you're feeling drowsy or have a task that cannot wait, pull the vehicle over to a safe spot out of the way of traffic.

**Monitor conditions to reduce the risk of losing control.**

A safe driver monitors road conditions constantly and is ready to make adjustments. Knowing how to handle your vehicle in a variety of situations helps reduce the risk that you'll be involved in an accident.

**Note how road materials affect traction.**

Asphalt can be more slippery than concrete or gravel due to its petroleum content, especially when covered with rain or snow.

**Be especially careful on sharp curves and steep inclines.**

These conditions make vehicle handling more difficult. Also, be wary of the dangers caused by soft shoulders and potholes.

**Slow down.**

Driving at speeds above the posted limits makes it easier to lose control of your vehicle, harder to recover and robs you of critical reaction time.

**Beware of standing water and wet leaves.**

Maintaining moderate speeds is especially important in these conditions, as it helps to avoid braking fast and skidding.

**And.....Get plenty of Sleep**

**2015 Traffic Fatalities Up 9.3 Percent!**

After years of steady, gradual declines in the number of traffic fatalities, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has announced a 9.3 percent increase in the number of U.S. traffic deaths in the first nine months of 2015. Though the actual amounts for the final quarter and the whole of 2015 won't be out until later this spring, the preliminary numbers show a marked increase, with a



**Register Now for the 2016 Idealease / NPTC Safety Seminar**

Idealease and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2016. The one day seminar this year will focus on the new Electronic Logging Device (ELD) regulation, basic safety and compliance, regulation changes and CSA. In addition, this year attendees will receive the mandatory two hour Drug and Alcohol supervisor training as part of the seminar. The seminars and will be provided to all Idealease customers, potential customers and NPTC members at no charge. The seminar provides important information applicable for both the novice and experienced transportation professionals.

[Click Here](#) to register

**2016 Idealease Safety Seminar Schedule:**

March 17	Memphis, TN
March 23	Santa Rosa, CA
March 29	Shreveport, LA
March 30	Dallas, TX
March 30	Atlanta, GA
April 12	Wausau, WI
April 14	Madison, WI
April 14	Lodi, CA
April 19	Fort Myers, FL
April 20	Tampa, FL
April 21	Orlando, FL
April 26	Baltimore, MD
April 27	Harrisburg, PA
April 28	New Windsor, NY
May 3	Kansas City, MO
May 3	Lexington, KY
May 5	Salt Lake City, UT
May 5	Aurora, CO
May 10	Everette, WA
May 12	Moncton, NB
June 7	Springfield, IL
June 23	San Leandro, CA
September 20	Lafayette, IN
September 22	Santa Barbara, CA
October 4	Green Bay, WI
October 4	Erie, PA
October 5	Butler, PA
October TBD	Cleveland, OH

projected 26,000 fatalities from January to September of 2015, compared to 23,796 for the same period of 2014.

A number of factors may have led to the increase in fatalities. For example, lower fuel prices seem to have induced Americans to spend more time on the road. Preliminary figures from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) show an increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) of 80.2 billion miles—a 3.5 percent increase over the same period last year. Additionally, vehicles themselves have been experiencing a number of safety issues. Over the course of the last year, auto manufacturers and government regulators have identified major safety concerns—like malfunctioning Takata airbags and the General Motors ignition switch scandal—leading to recalls of millions of unsafe cars that are currently on the road. NHTSA has taken the data as an indication that the agency needs to do more to prevent crashes. In fact, citing the fact that human factors contribute to 94 percent of crashes, NHTSA has said that it has already begun a series of regional summits to examine unsafe driver behaviors that contribute to fatalities.

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## FMCSA Publishes Entry-Level Driver Training Rule Proposal

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has published its notice of proposed rulemaking on minimum standards for entry-level driver training. [81 Fed. Reg. 11943](#) (March 7, 2016). The proposal is based on the results of the negotiated rulemaking committee that met in 2015. Under the proposal, applicants seeking a Class A CDL would be required to obtain a minimum of 30 hours of behind-the-wheel training from an instructional program that meets FMCSA standards, including a minimum of 10 hours of operating the vehicle on a practice driving range.

Applicants seeking a Class B CDL would be required to obtain a minimum of 15 hours of behind-the-wheel training, including a minimum of seven hours of practice range training. There is no proposed minimum number of hours that driver trainees must spend on the classroom portions of any of the individual curricula. The proposed rule would apply to:

- First-time CDL applicants
- Current CDL holders seeking a license upgrade (e.g., a Class B CDL holder seeking a Class A CDL) or an additional endorsement (necessary, e.g., to transport hazardous materials, operate a tank truck, school bus, or motorcoach, or pull double and/or triple trailers)
- A previously disqualified CDL holder seeking to reacquire a license

The required course of instruction must be provided by an entity that:

- Meets the minimum qualifications for training providers
- Covers the curriculum
- Is listed on FMCSA's proposed Training Provider Registry
- Submits electronically to FMCSA the training certificate for each individual who completes the training

Military drivers, farmers, and firefighters would continue to remain generally exempt from the federal CDL requirements.

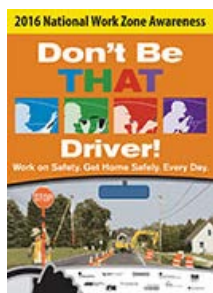
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## FMCSA Announces New Definition of High Risk Carriers

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has announced a new definition of high-risk motor carriers and associated investigative procedural changes designed to allow the agency to better identify high risk carriers for enforcement actions under the CSA program. [81 Fed. Reg. 11875](#) (March 7, 2016).

Under the new definition, property carriers are "High Risk" if they have two or more of the following BASICs, most closely correlated with crash risk, at or above the 90th percentile for two months and they have not received onsite investigation in the previous 18 months: Unsafe Driving, Crash Indicator, HOS Compliance, and Vehicle Maintenance.

The FMCSA states that the new definition will identify a smaller number of carriers, but this group of carriers will have a higher crash risk than the group of carriers identified under the current High Risk definition. This newly defined High Risk list will be the agency's investigative priority.



## 2016 National Work Zone Awareness Week - April 11-15

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones and construction sites. The key message is for drivers to use extra caution in work zones. For more information, check out the link below.

[American Traffic Safety Services Association \(ATSSA\)](#)

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