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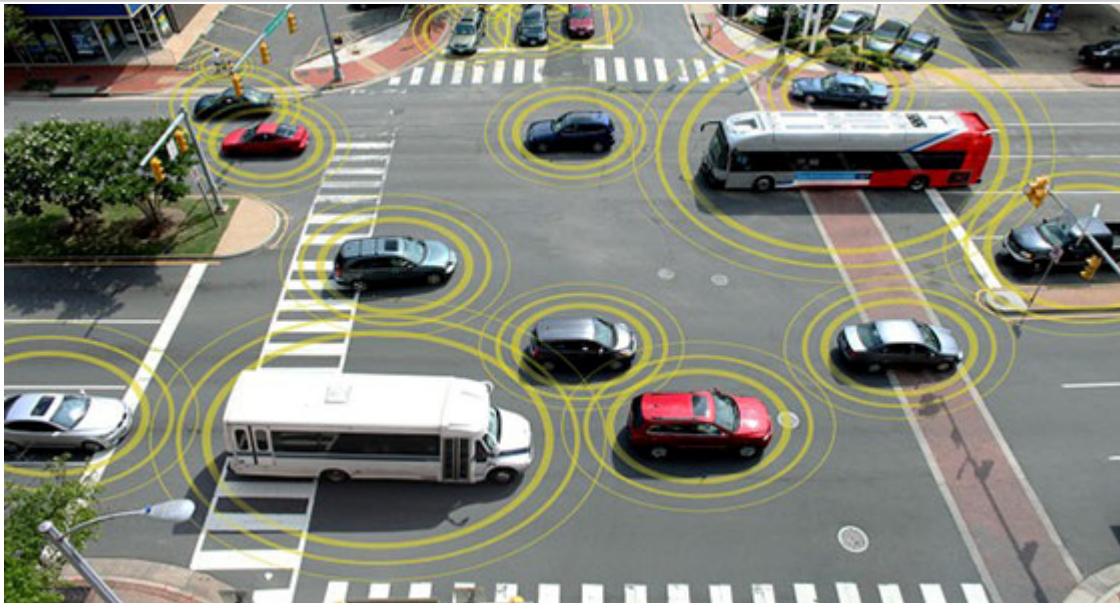
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**November 1, 2019**



## Safety Bulletin



# Communicating with Other Drivers and Pedestrians while Driving

By appropriately using communication, you make it easier for other drivers to see you. You also make it easier for you to see other drivers. Ensuring that you can see other drivers and that they can see you will drastically reduce the chance of an accident.

The following communication devices are part of your “execution arsenal”:

- Turn signals can be used to let other drivers know that you are turning, changing lanes, pulling out of a parking space or pulling out from the curb. You should signal at least four seconds before you plan to take action.
- Emergency Signals should be used to warn other drivers that you are experiencing vehicle trouble or when you must park on the shoulder of the roadway for an emergency. This is a warning to other drivers to give you more space.
- The horn should be tapped lightly when trying to gain the attention of another driver or pedestrian. It should not be used to vent frustration at other drivers’ actions.
- Headlights: Many new trucks have daytime running lights that turn on automatically. These help other drivers see you. You can flash your lights to oncoming traffic to warn them of dangers up ahead such as accidents or obstructions in the roadway.

## Turn Signals

Use turn signals first to indicate your intent to change lanes, next visually scan for adjacent traffic and road hazards, and then execute a safe lane change. By signaling your intentions well in advance, you will be in a safer position to communicate with the surrounding drivers and you will be able to safely execute the desired driving maneuver.



A good safety practice is to signal at least 4 seconds prior to making a turning maneuver.

### ***Did You Know?***

A recent study reported that there are approximately 630,000 lane-change

crashes annually (including both large trucks and passenger vehicles).

While you certainly wouldn't know it from watching the majority of drivers out there, using a turn signal to indicate a lane change is generally the law.

## **Emergency Signals (4 Ways)**

FMCSA 392.22 Emergency signals; stopped commercial motor vehicles.

Whenever a commercial motor vehicle is stopped upon the traveled portion of a highway or the shoulder of a highway for any cause other than necessary traffic stops, the driver of the stopped commercial motor vehicle shall immediately activate the vehicular hazard warning signal flashers and continue the flashing until the driver has placed the warning devices required by CFR 395.22. The flashing signals shall be used during the time the warning devices are picked up for storage before movement of the commercial motor vehicle. The flashing lights may be used at other times while a commercial motor vehicle is stopped in addition to, but not in lieu of, the warning devices required by this section.

### ***Horn***

The horn on a commercial motor vehicle is a safety device that can be the sole item that can prevent an accident by sounding an alarm and communicating your presence to another vehicle. However, we all know of drivers that have abused the use of a horn and may in fact cause an accident by startling another motorist.

There have been instances of road rage documented that all started with the misuse of a horn. The sounding of a horn is one of the few actions taken by a driver that can make an intrusion into the driving compartment of another vehicle. Horns on commercial vehicles vary in size from small electric (city horns) to large exterior mounted chrome trumpeted air horns. Novelty horns are also popular that play familiar tunes to college football fight songs.

***So what does the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration say about***

**a horn?** The Answer is found in [CFR§393.81](#):

Every bus, truck, truck-tractor, and every driven motor vehicle in driveaway-towaway operations shall be equipped with a horn and actuating elements which shall be in such condition as to give an adequate and reliable warning signal.

**§393.81 DOT Interpretations:**

**Q:** Do the FMCSRs specify what type of horn is to be used on a CMV?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Are there established criteria in the FMCSRs to determine the minimum sound level of horns on CMVs?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Can I drive my commercial motor vehicle if the horn is not operational?

**A:** NO- [CFR§392.7](#)

## Equipment, Inspection and Use

No commercial motor vehicle shall be driven unless the driver is satisfied that the following parts and accessories are in good working order, nor shall any driver fail to use or make use of such parts and accessories when and as needed:

Service brakes, including trailer brake control, Parking (hand) brake., Steering mechanism, Lighting devices and reflectors, Tires, Horn, Windshield wiper or wipers, Rear-vision mirror or mirrors and Coupling devices.

### ***Headlights***

Many companies now have their trucks programmed to have the low beam headlights on anytime the engine is running. Many states have laws that now require headlights to be on any time that windshield wipers are in use. Both of these are good safety practices.

Are your headlights on your truck “fogged” or dirty? Do you make sure your headlights, turn signals and brake lights are clean during your pre and post trip inspections?

Per the National Institute for Traffic and Highway Safety, the number one reason for severe night time accidents and reduced driving safety is dim or cloudy and improperly lit headlights. If a headlight has ineffective or diminished light output, your night time driving safety is greatly at risk. According to a study by the University of Iowa, a 20 to 50% reduction in headlight out put leads to a 90% increase in the possibility of an accident occurring. This is a very unnecessary risk as it is easy to either clean, replace or fix these headlights.

### ***Dim it!***

**Q:** Is flashing high beams at cars illegal? Someone told me that flashing your headlights at a vehicle in front of you, particularly if it is going slow in the fast lane, is a citable offense. Is this true?

**A:** Yes, in some states that is true.

The main concern of flashing an oncoming motorist is that they may be temporarily blinded and may create blind spots for other motorists while operating their vehicles, thus creating an obviously hazardous situation.

## **Parking Lot Accident Exposure Increases During the Holidays**

As we are drawing near to the holiday season it is time to remind your drivers of the exposures that exist in parking lots as they make deliveries and pickups. Parking lots at this time of the year can be especially dangerous for drivers making deliveries or just stopping for lunch. The exposure exists for a



vehicle accident as well as being involved in an accident as a pedestrian. This holiday season pay special attention when operating in a parking lot and observe the following advice:

- Wear your seatbelt – even low speed collisions can throw you around the cab of your truck.
- Obey all traffic signs such as **Stop** and **Yield**.
- Drive slowly and use your turn signals and headlights – make sure your vehicle is seen and watch for distracted motorists who do not see you coming.
- Obey traffic lanes and do NOT drive diagonally across lots (watch for cars cutting diagonally across lots).
- Slow down for speed bumps as not to injure yourself or damage your cargo.
- Use delivery driveway entrances for customers that auto traffic is not likely to use.
- Beware of motorist who are lost or distracted looking for specialty stores that are not frequented.
- Be extra careful at entrances and exits – motorists stop suddenly and for no apparent reason – tailgaters often end up in rear-end collisions, and rushing while turning into access road or side street traffic can also lead to collisions.
- Be especially careful in lots that contain Post Offices, package stores and other locations where people are prone to dart in and out hastily in a hurry to be on their way.
- Be extra careful during peak times when reckless drivers may speed through lanes while trying to get a “better spot” closer to the shops
- Some drivers are on the “hunt” for an ideal parking spot and may drive erratically – watching for open spots rather than watching where they are driving! These drivers often circle the lanes nearest to their store – parking away from stores may make a longer walk, but prove less dangerous from a vehicle collision standpoint.
- Lock your truck at all times when not attended. Parking lots are very busy and are often targeted by thieves.

The first parking lot in the world was created in Fort Wayne, Indiana no doubt just in time for holiday shopping.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November 3-10 is Drowsy Driving Prevention Week

The National Sleep Foundation has launched Drowsy Driving Prevention week as an educational campaign designed to save lives by increasing awareness of the dangers of driving while sleepy. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that drowsy driving causes at least 100,000 police-reported crashes and kills more than 1,550 Americans each year. It is curious that all states have laws in place to enforce drunken driving, but few have laws to cite a driver who has fallen asleep causing an accident. Only the state of New Jersey explicitly defines drowsy driving as recklessness under a vehicular homicide statute. Known as "Maggie's Law," New Jersey's drowsy driving law has served to raise awareness of the consequences of fatigue behind the wheel and has spurred significant action in other states. There are now at least 8



### The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Change May Bring Saliva Drug Testing to DOT Rules

A change in the guidelines for drug testing regulations will likely open the door to allow saliva drug testing as part of the DOT drug and alcohol testing program.

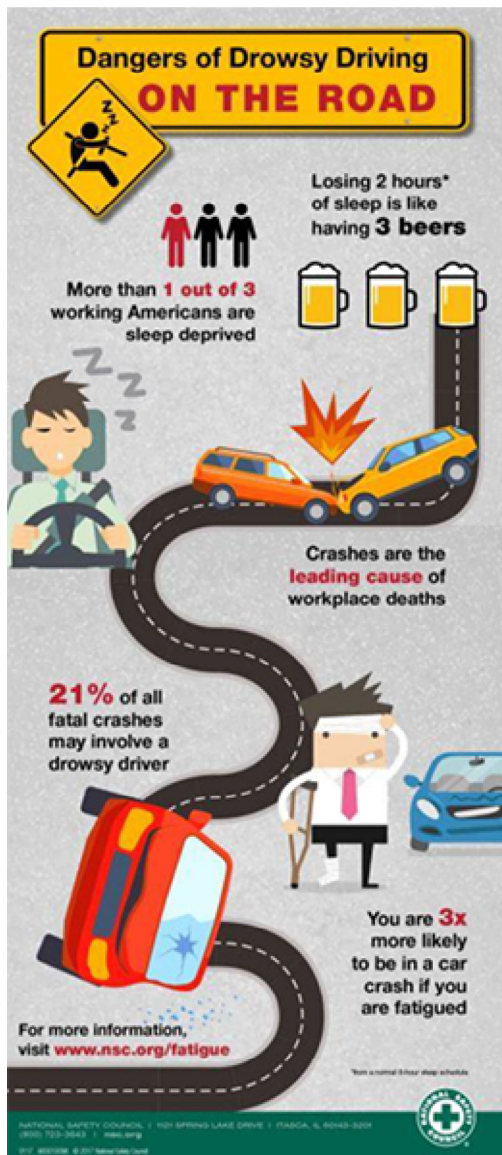
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the establishment of scientific and technical guidelines to include oral fluid specimens in the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs.

Under federal law, the DOT is required to follow the Guidelines as part of its drug testing programs. DOT testing procedures are outlined in 49 CFR Part 40. As a result, the revisions to HHS's testing procedures will likely result in changes to Part 40.

All DOT modes that are subject to DOT

states with 12 pending bills that address fatigued driving in various ways.

[Click Here](#) for more information on **Drowsy Driving Prevention Week**.



**Time to Fall Back.....Daylight Savings Time Change Next Week!**

testing, including the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, must use Part 40 procedures to test safety-sensitive positions. As a result, any changes to Part 40, allowing saliva drug testing in addition to urine testing, will affect motor carriers and their CDL drivers.

*The new guidelines are scheduled to take effect January 1, 2020.*

## FMCSA Proposes Privacy Act Protection For Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Records

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has published a notice required by the Privacy Act to establish a new system of records for its Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, which goes into effect January 6, 2020. 84 Fed. Reg. 56521 (October 22, 2019).

This system of records allows FMCSA to collect and maintain records on commercial driver's license and commercial learner's permit holders who have received verified positive DOT drug or alcohol test results, refuse such testing, or otherwise violate FMCSA's drug and alcohol use prohibitions. The Clearinghouse will collect and maintain records on the completion of substance abuse programs as part of the return-to-duty process and will collect and maintain drivers' consent to the release of



Daylight savings time will "fall back" at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3rd. Make sure that all your drivers are aware that the change to daylight savings will occur. Caution route drivers especially that the amount of daylight will change according to their stops with the change. An intersection or street can present different challenges to drivers with one-hour change in the position of the sun. One-hour of time difference can present unique changes to a driver who is on a route.

information.

In addition, the Clearinghouse will collect and maintain records of queries of the system conducted by employers or service agents acting on their behalf, and State Driver Licensing Agencies. The information in this system will be used to enhance compliance with drug and alcohol use testing regulations by identifying CDL or CLP holders who have committed drug and alcohol violations that render them ineligible to operate a commercial motor vehicle.

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