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November 30th, 2018

Don't Crowd the Plow



Proactive vs. Reactive Safety and Loss Control Program

At the end of the year you should be evaluating your safety and loss control program to determine your performance over the year. Where do you stand compared to last year and the year before?

Ongoing analysis programs are vital to a proactive and productive safety and loss control program. It always amazes me that companies cannot tell me what their accident frequency rate is and how it compares to years past. Accident frequency should be determined throughout the year no less than quarterly to determine trends and be proactive in controlling losses. Accident frequency rates can be calculated by multiplying the total number of accidents for a period by one million and then dividing by the total number miles for the same period.



Accident frequency rates can be determined for DOT recordable, preventable recordable, non-preventable, by region, by fleet, driver supervisor, injury, etc. However, accident frequency rates are just one piece of the overall safety analysis program that is in place to provide you with a sense of direction of where your program is going. Other areas of your internal analysis program should include, driver turnover frequency, DOT violation analysis (Hours of Service, Drug and Alcohol, driver file), Osha violations, workers compensation injuries, etc. Another analysis tool that you should review monthly is your CSA SMS data provided to you by the

Much of the Midwest this week will experience another significant snow storm. During winter storms, snowplows work around the clock to make roads passable. These large vehicles can present a hazard for drivers who follow too closely. Observe these tips to stay safe while giving snowplow operators room to do their jobs.

Keep well back from snowplows

Plow drivers can't see directly behind their trucks. Sometimes they must stop or back up. Staying a safe distance behind a snowplow will protect you from possible injury and protect your car from sanding material that plows spread on slick roadways.

Know where the snowplow is on multi-lane highways

The plow could be in either lane, or on the shoulder. Watch for snowplows on interstate ramps and "authorized vehicle only" turnarounds.

Never drive through a snow cloud or whiteout conditions

You can't be sure if such conditions are caused by crosswinds or by a snowplow, so be patient. Snowplow

FMCSA <http://www2.idealease.com/e/36492/2018-11-30/5klrvz/686853957> or <http://www2.idealease.com/e/36492/2018-11-30/5klrw2/686853957>.

A sound proactive safety and loss control program will adequately address the following areas:

- Driver selection
- Driver recruiting
- Carrier-based training
- Management-driver communications
- Driver safety-performance evaluation
- Safety incentives, behavior-based safety
- On-board safety monitoring
- Event-data recorder
- Accident investigation
- Improved driver scheduling and dispatching
- Fatigue management
- Carrier-based medical programs
- Advanced safety technologies, industry-based safety standards and certification
- Preventive maintenance and vehicle inspection

Holiday Driving Tips

Holiday events and celebrations can be exciting times for family and friends to get together. But, get-togethers with family and friends can turn into tragedies when people are killed or injured in traffic crashes. As the holiday season is approaching, motorists need to be mindful of actions that will make their holiday travel safer. Drivers can protect themselves and their passengers by following these holiday travel rules.

Before you start your trip, make sure your vehicle is tuned up and in good shape for travel. This is especially important for winter driving conditions. Restrain yourself and your passengers properly in seat belts and car safety seats. Remember, the rear seat is the safest place for children of any age to ride. Be flexible in setting your travel plans.



Leave early if you can to avoid the peak traffic hours. If snow is predicted during the time you plan to travel, change your schedule. It is better to reschedule your get-together than to risk the lives of traveling family or friends. Stay fresh and alert while driving. Take plenty of breaks and do not push yourself to meet an unrealistic schedule. If you get tired,

pull off the road into a rest area or business, get out of the car for some fresh air, buy something to refresh you, or just relax until you feel revived. If that doesn't work, find a motel or campground where you can spend the night.

Forty-one percent of fatal traffic accidents are single vehicle crashes. These crashes most often occur during the late night/early morning hours and the late afternoon hours to drivers who are tired, have consumed alcohol, or both. Keep your speed down. Give yourself plenty of time and distance to react to the traffic around you. Let impatient and aggressive drivers pass you or go through the intersection ahead of you so that you control the situation. Do not pass if you cannot see enough clear road to pass safely. If there will be drinking at your holiday get-together, choose a designated driver who will remain alcohol free. Because driving requires your full attention, pull off the road if you must use your cellular phone.

operators periodically pull over to allow traffic to pass.



Snowplow operators are extremely safety-conscious, but they need your help. Stay back and let them safely do their job of clearing the road for you. Don't take a chance. Don't crowd the plow!

When is Alcohol Use Prohibited?

Alcohol is a legal substance; therefore, the rules define specific prohibited alcohol-related conduct. Performance of safety-sensitive functions is prohibited:

- while using alcohol.
- while having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 percent or greater as indicated by an breathalyzer test.
- within four hours after using alcohol.



In addition, refusing to submit to an alcohol test or consuming alcohol within eight hours after an accident or until tested (for drivers required to be tested) are prohibited.

Don't Miss Out on the Weekly Safety Bulletin!

Alcohol, Drivers and the Holidays

Now is a good time to remind your drivers of the consequences of drinking during the holiday season and what effect their actions can have on their CDL or operator's license and ultimately their employment with your company. Advise your drivers to use caution when indulging in alcoholic beverages and have a designated driver to not only protect their license and job but the motoring public. The FMCSA regulations are specific that a CDL driver while operating any type of motor vehicle is convicted of being under the influence of alcohol as described by state law will be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year. A second conviction would disqualify the driver from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.



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