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February 22nd, 2019

## Saint Patrick's Day Drunk Driving Prevention - March 17, 2019



## Winter Is Not Over Yet!

This morning I was watching the news and observed that for the first time in 10 years Las Vegas has received measurable snow fall. In fact, they have been hit by two snow storms this week. The National Weather Service in Las Vegas reported yesterday morning that the official snowfall for Feb. 20 in Las Vegas was 0.5 inches — breaking a daily snowfall record for the date. It also reported that it was the second latest date in winter when a half-inch or more was ever recorded. That record was set on Feb. 25, 1987, when 0.6 inches fell. Next week the plain state will see below zero temperatures! Do not let up on your fuel additive regimen when it is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Now is the time to reinforce to your drivers that they cannot let up their guard and must continue to practice sound winter driving techniques.

Please review the following tips with your drivers:

- Reduce your speed!
- When it snows, use your head not your feet. Slow down for wet, snowy, or icy conditions; when visibility is poor; or when conditions are changing or unpredictable.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These are all candidates for developing black ice — a thin coating of clear ice that can form on the pavement surface that may be difficult to see.
- Avoid excessive actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of the vehicle.
- Space out! Leave plenty of room between your truck and others. It takes more time and distance to stop your truck in adverse weather conditions, so use



St. Patrick's Day is one of the deadliest holidays on our nation's roads. During the 2013-2017 St. Patrick's Day holiday period (6 pm March 16 to 5:59 am March 18), 234 lives were lost due to drunk-driving crashes. Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving

In 2017, drunk driving killed more than 10,000 people in our country, and every single one of those deaths was preventable.

These marketing tools can be used to fit your needs and objectives while, at the same time, partnering with other States, communities, and traffic safety organizations on this drunk driving prevention initiative.

New 2019 campaign materials include:

- Updated infographics
- Updated social media messaging

Click [here](#) and get your campaign materials now.

## Registration Is Now Open

your brakes carefully. Brake early, brake slowly, brake correctly, and never slam on the brakes.

- No Cruising! Avoid using cruise control in winter driving conditions. You need to be in control of your speed based on road conditions — don't let the cruise control make a bad decision for you.
- Remember: Winter conditions call for different driving tactics. Ice and snow take it slow—slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking.
- Safe Travel Around Snow Plows
- Don't crowd the plow. Snowplows plow far and wide—sometimes very wide. The front plow extends several feet in front of the truck and may cross the centerline and shoulders during plowing operations. Plows also turn and exit the road frequently.
- Don't tailgate or stop too close behind snowplows. Snowplows are usually spreading deicing materials from the back of the truck and those materials can damage vehicle paint. Plows also may need to stop or take evasive action to avoid stranded vehicles. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay behind it or use caution when passing. The road behind a snowplow will be safer to drive on.
- On multiple lane roads, watch for snowplows operating in either lane.
- Snowplows travel much slower than the posted speeds while removing snow and ice from the roads. When you spot a plow, allow plenty of time to slow down.



- A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they may not see you.
- Be Prepared!
- Before leaving on your route or trip, find out about the driving conditions. Safe drivers know the weather, and they know their limits. If the weather is bad, remember, ice and snow, take it slow.
- Before venturing out onto snowy roadways, make sure you've cleared the snow off all of your truck's windows and lights, including brake lights and turn signals. Make sure you can see and be seen. Always buckle up, and remember, when driving in ice and snow, take it slow.
- Give yourself extra time to reach your destination safely. It's not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation, just to be on time.

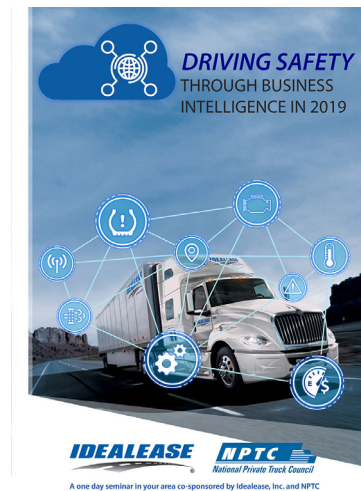
## FMCSA, AAMVA Discuss Updates to CDL Skills Testing Practices

Potential revisions to the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) skills testing practices were discussed during a recent meeting of the American Association of Motor Vehicle



Administrators (AAMVA) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The meeting, according to the

## Online for the 2019 Idealease / NPTC Safety Seminars!



[Click here to register for a Safety Seminar in your area!](#)

Idealease and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will be hosting safety seminars again in 2019. The one-day seminar this year will focus on new safety technologies available on trucks today, basic [safety and compliance](#), regulation changes and CSA. The seminars will be provided to all Idealease customers, potential customers and NPTC members at no additional charge. The seminars provide important information applicable to both the novice and experienced transportation professionals.

### Spring Seminars

3/27/2019	Orlando, FL
3/28/2019	Tampa, FL
4/2/2019	Memphis, TN
4/3/2019	Atlanta, GA
4/3/2019	Mannheim, PA
4/4/2019	Charlotte, NC
4/4/2019	Weirton, WV
4/17/2019	Ventura, CA
4/18/2019	San Leandro, CA
4/23/2019	Portland, OR
5/1/2019	Plymouth, IN
5/1/2019	Grand Rapids, MI
5/7/2019	Upper Marlboro, MD
5/9/2019	Aurora, CO
5/21/2019	Baltimore, MD
5/23/2019	Milwaukee, WI

### Fall Seminars

TBD	Chicago, IL
TBD	Lexington, KY
TBD	Springfield, IL
10/15/2019	Reno, NV

NPTC Weekly Update, a digital publication of the National Private Truck Council, discussed potential revisions that would include changes to the vehicle inspection list, the basic control skills test, and the driver's and examiner's manuals for CDL applicants.

The current skills testing rules were adopted more than a decade ago. Technology changes to commercial motor vehicles (CMV) such as the emergence of hybrid electric CMVs and 360-degree camera monitoring systems are among the reasons to readdress the rules, the AAMVA's test maintenance subcommittee said. Also addressed during the discussions were procedural concerns such as the length of time required to schedule tests, high fail rates for vehicle inspection tests, and non-uniform testing processes between jurisdictions. Under the proposed plans, a pilot program will conduct tests using various classes and combinations of vehicles operated by novice and experienced drivers. Data will be collected and analyzed by an independent third party to ensure that proposed revisions are valid. The AAMVA said these are the first step in the process of making changes. No dates or deadlines were announced regarding implementation of any updates.

TBD	San Leandro, CA
TBD	Eugene, OR
TBD	Green Bay, WI
TBD	Erie, PA
9/12/2019	Nashville, TN
10/23/2019	Modesto/Turlock, CA
TBD	Salt Lake City, UT
TBD	Louisville, KY
TBD	Kelowna, BC
TBD	Everett, WA
TBD	Chattanooga, TN



## NSC Says Highway Fatalities Decline One Percent in 2018

The National Safety Council is reporting that in 2018 an estimated 40,000 people lost their lives to highway vehicle crashes. A 1% decline from 2017 (40,231 deaths) and 2016 (40,327 deaths). The Council states about 4.5 million people were seriously injured in crashes last year – also a 1% decrease from 2017. Although the NSC data does not show causation, the Council speculates that distracted driving prevents more significant reductions in the traffic fatalities.



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## DOT Initiates Audit of FMCSA's Medical Certificate Program

An audit of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) oversight of commercial driver medical certificates has been initiated by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General (OIG). A rise in fatalities involving large trucks and buses was cited as the reason for the audit, according to a DOT



memorandum dated February 20, 2019. Fatal crashes grew 11 percent annually from 2012 to 2017, from 4,397 in 2012 to 4,879 in 2017, according to FMCSA data quoted in the memorandum. The memo stated the audit would begin immediately. "One key area of addressing motor carrier safety is to ensure that commercial drivers maintain

a valid medical certificate, which confirms they are healthy enough to safely operate the commercial vehicle," the DOT said.

The objectives of the OIG audit are to evaluate the FMCSA's procedures for:

- Oversight of its medical certificate program, including commercial driver medical certificate data quality
- Validating information in its National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

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