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Is Your Company Prepared in the Event of an Accident?

Today more than ever companies that operate commercial motor vehicles need to prepare in advance for an accident that one of your vehicles may have. Depending on the severity of the accident, just the involvement is enough to throw the thought process of most drivers and supervisors into array. Companies need to have a clear and direct plan in place that will be implemented when an accident occurs. This plan needs to be flexible and can be activated no matter what time of



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



IDEALEASE **NPTC**
National Private Truck Council

A one day seminar in your area co-sponsored by Idealease, Inc. and NPTC

the day or night. When an accident occurs, the company has several immediate items that need to be addressed.

1. The safety and protection of the driver and public.
2. Protecting the company's liability and physical damage exposure.
3. Provide information to Law Enforcement officials.
4. Control of progressive damage that may occur from the accident, including Hazardous material spills, cargo and the vehicles.
5. Compliance with State and Federal Regulations (such as drug and alcohol testing if required).
6. Documenting and protecting the physical evidence at the scene (Spoliation of evidence).
7. Securing witnesses to the accident.
8. Addressing the News Media and Social Media.
9. Having your vehicle towed to a safe and secure site.

Recommendations for a Company Preparing for an Accident:

1. Put together an accident response team. Ideally this team would consist of the safety director, the driver involved, insurance accident investigator, company's attorney and if needed an accident reconstruction expert.
2. Have an accident action plan in place that outlines the direction and responsibilities of the response team.
3. Develop written policy for drivers to follow when involved in an accident regardless of severity. This would include reporting, conduct at the scene, responsibilities, drug and alcohol testing, etc.
4. Include accident scene training as part of your new driver orientation program. Drivers should know exactly what to do and what NOT to do in the event of an accident.
5. Place Accident Kits in the units. This kit should include a camera, accident report, pencil, and instructions. Place and expiration date on the outside of the kit that coincides with the expiration date of the camera. It is recommended that these kits be sealed or secured so the materials. Drivers need to be trained on how to use the camera and which pictures should be taken and which pictures NOT to take.

Idealease and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2020. The one-day seminar this year will focus on new safety technologies available on trucks today, basic safety and compliance, regulation changes, load securement and CSA. 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 for a seminar near you.](#)

Spring Dates

3/11/2020	San Leandro, CA
4/6/2020	Columbia, SC
4/7/2020	Atlanta, GA
4/14/2020	Cleveland, OH
4/15/2020	Youngstown, OH
4/16/2020	Tampa, FL
4/21/20	Kansas City, MO
4/22/2020	Dallas, TX
4/23/20	Memphis, TN
4/30/2020	Chattanooga, TN
5/5/2020	Wausau, WI
5/6/2020	Madison, WI
5/7/2020	Aurora, CO
5/13/2020	Portland, OR
5/14/2020	Santa Fe Springs, CA
5/20/2020	Altoona, IA
5/20/2020	Baltimore, MD
5/21/2020	Mannheim, PA
7/22/2020	Santa Rosa, CA

Fall Dates

9/23/2020	Ontario, CA
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Photographing an Accident Scene

The old saying “a picture is worth a thousand words” is especially true when talking about taking photos at an accident scene. Over the past years, carriers have been placing disposable film cameras in their trucks to have drivers document evidence from an accident scene. Today, with the evolution of digital cameras it is difficult to find a place to develop film. Regardless, if a driver has a film or digital camera have you provided training to your drivers on how to use the cameras? If not, you run the risk that the driver will not have taken photos needed to document evidence or worse yet, that the photos the driver has taken can be used against you in a court of law. Use the following tips to train your drivers:

- Show the driver how to properly operate the camera (if camera is provided) or make sure they have a digital camera with them. Have photos as samples to show them how close or far to take the photos.
- Shoot all available pictures on the roll at an accident scene (if film) or make sure they know to shoot plenty of pictures. That one extra picture may hold key evidence to protect your company.
- Photograph all damaged areas and undamaged areas of all vehicles. Do not forget to photograph the license plate of all vehicles involved in the accident. This photo should be close enough to read the plate and identify which vehicle it was on, try to include unit number in the picture.
- Photograph the interior of the vehicles including the dash area and driving compartment. Include in the photo all safety equipment such as seat belts, steering wheel, pedals, and air bags.
- Photograph the accident scene from all angles. When photographing a vehicle or entire scene, draw an imaginary box around the vehicle or scene. Then photograph from each corner of the box.
- Take pictures of the roadway leading up to the accident scene. Any skid marks should be photographed in various angles. Include in the

9/23/2020	Indianapolis, IN
9/29/2020	Fort Wayne, IN
10/7/2020	Eugene, OR
10/13/20	Charlottesville, VA
10/22/20	Birmingham, AL
10/29/20	Phoenix, AZ

[Click Here](#) to view a schedule of all Safety Seminars offered.

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Email *

First Name *

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Job Title *

Company *

SUBMIT

Safety Bulletin

Training Requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

September 27th, 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 7th - 13th is Fire Prevention Week

National Fire Prevention Week is coming, and it is a good time to review with your drivers how to prevent fires and how to react to a fire that occurs in their commercial motor vehicle.

Fire extinguisher inspection is a vital part of a driver's daily vehicle inspection process. It assures fire how many times will be looking at a truck and for the fire extinguisher has lost it pressure due to a leak or was used and returned to the truck without being recharged. The actions of a driver at the time of a fire are crucial in saving lives and controlling the amount of loss.

Register Now to Attend an Idealease/NPTC Safety Seminar this Fall!

DRIVING SAFETY

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photographs stationary objects, telephone poles, road signs, buildings, etc.

- DO NOT take photos of anyone who has been injured or is deceased due to the accident.

However, take photos of occupants in the other vehicles to document who was involved in the accident. For example, if the driver of the other vehicle is out changing a tire, photograph this action to show the physical condition of the other driver immediately following the accident.

Question of the Week

"I struck a deer on the roadway and my vehicle is disabled. I pulled the vehicle onto the shoulder. Where am I required to place my reflective triangles to alert other drivers of the situation I am in?"

Answer: First activate your 4-way hazard flashers immediately. Next, place the warning reflective triangles as follows:

1. One on the traffic side of and 4 paces (approximately 3 meters or 10 feet) from the stopped commercial motor vehicle in the direction of approaching traffic.
2. One at 40 paces (approximately 30 meters or 100 feet) from the stopped commercial motor vehicle in the center of the traffic lane or shoulder occupied by the commercial motor vehicle and in the direction of approaching traffic.
3. One at 40 paces (approximately 30 meters or 100 feet) from the stopped commercial motor vehicle in the center of the traffic lane or shoulder occupied by the commercial motor vehicle and in the direction away from approaching traffic.
4. Hills, curves, and obstructions. If a commercial motor vehicle is stopped within 500 feet of a curve, crest of a hill, or other obstruction to view, the driver shall place the warning signal in the direction of the obstruction to view a distance of 100 feet to

ELEVATE: QUESTION/TIP OF THE WEEK SIGNUP

Email *



First Name *

Last Name *


Job Title *

Company *

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Technology Intervention



Q: I am having a difficult time managing certain idle behaviors in my fleet. For the life of me, I can't get my drivers (or warehouse personnel) to stop using the PTO Override on their vehicles.

A: In these instances, we recommend having the vehicle's engine parameters changed. Service technicians can change the *Idle Shutdown Timer* to *Tamper Proof* mode. When the vehicle is programmed to the *Tamper Proof* setting, it will no longer accept the *PTO Override* steps, and the vehicle will shut down as designed.

This is not always ideal, so we prefer drivers heed the management warnings. You can take this step and change this setting at your next 90 day PM, as directed.



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500 feet from the stopped commercial motor vehicle so as to afford ample warning to other users of the highway.

5. Divided or one-way roads. If a commercial motor vehicle is stopped upon the traveled portion or the shoulder of a divided or one-way highway, the driver shall place the warning devices as follows, one warning device at a distance of 200 feet and one warning device at a distance of 100 feet in a direction toward approaching traffic in the center of the lane or shoulder occupied by the commercial motor vehicle. He or she shall place one warning device at the traffic side of the commercial motor vehicle within 10 feet of the rear of the commercial motor vehicle.

FMCSA Provides Advice on Clearinghouse Queries

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has issued guidance to motor carriers on specific problems in making queries to the agency's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. The guidance states:

When hiring a commercial driver's license (CDL) driver, employers must now conduct a pre-employment query. This query checks to see if there is any violation information reported to the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse associated with that driver's CDL information.

Before you can conduct the pre-employment query, you must obtain the driver's electronic consent. In this process, the employer (or designated C/TPA) logs in to the Clearinghouse and sends the request, the driver then logs in to his or her Clearinghouse account to respond to the request.

"I am trying to conduct the pre-employment query, but the Clearinghouse says it cannot verify the driver's CDL information." The Clearinghouse checks the CDL information you entered with the States' CDL

systems, which tracks driver CDLs nationwide. If the information you entered does not verify, make sure you have entered the driver's CDL information correctly. If the CDL number has special characters (such as spaces, dashes, or leading zeros), try entering the CDL number with or without these characters, as requirements vary by State.

“I was able to submit the consent request, but the driver does not see it in his/her dashboard.” First, make sure the driver has a verified CDL in their Clearinghouse profile. Have the driver log in to his or her Clearinghouse account. If the driver has not verified his or her CDL information, there will be a message on his or her Driver Dashboard with next steps prompting him or her to do so. Once the driver has verified their CDL, the pending consent request should display on their Driver Dashboard.

If you have confirmed that the driver has verified his or her CDL information in the Clearinghouse, and the driver still does not see the pending consent request, try sending a new consent request (you can cancel the pending consent request, which will credit your query balance). This time, when you enter the CDL information, enter it exactly as the driver entered it in the Clearinghouse, including all zeroes, dashes, special characters, etc.

If you follow these steps and still encounter issues, please [contact us](#) or call (844) 955-0207.



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