



APRIL 2013

Tickets & Roadsides

1. Advise safety of all tickets & roadside inspections immediately following the event.
2. Safety must be called before tickets are sent to the office.
3. Attach receipt of repairs made for sited violation to the roadside inspection.

These 3 steps are mandatory!

Defensive Driving

As we all know it's getting to be that time of year again. Daylight savings time has given us an extra hour of sun light and the weather is finally starting to get nicer. This is great for the commercial driver allowing more daylight to the work day and a safer driving environment. Unfortunately, with an increase in conformability comes an increase in the general population, people out enjoying the weather working off the cabin fever. This means an increase to the vehicles on the roadway therefore, an increase possibility of being involved in an accident. Accidents are obviously something a commercial motor vehicle driver wants to avoid at all cost, though sometimes they cannot be avoided. Since most accidents are in avoidable I was to share with your two different systems or sets of characteristics that can greatly lower a drivers risk of getting into an accident. The Smith System of defensive Driving and Defensive Driving Characteristics. First, let's cover The Smith System of Driving. The Smith System consist of 5 key points, Aim high in steering, Get the Big picture, Keep your Eyes Moving, Leave Yourself an Out and Make Sure they see you.

1. Aim High in steering

Look 15 seconds into your future (Don't just look at the vehicle in front of you).

2. Get the Big Picture

Look for Hazards (Other Motorists, Pedestrians, Vehicle doors opening)

3. Keep Your Eyes Moving

Don't stare. (Use your peripheral vision)

4. Leave Yourself an Out

Monitor the space cushion around you and the tractor/trailer.

5. Make Sure They See You

Use your signals- (Directional, 4-Way Flashers, Head Lights, Brake Lights, Horn, Hand Signals)
MAKE EYE CONTACT.

Now that we have covered the Smith System of Defensive Driving, lets cove the Defensive Driving Characteristics. There are 5 defensive driving characteristics, Knowledge, Alertness, Anticipation, Judgment, and Skill.

1. **Knowledge;** Good defensive drivers will have knowledge of the traffic laws and traffic patterns for that area.

2. **Alertness:** Good defensive drivers are alert to what is going on around them. They are well rested and would never take any drugs or alcohol that could affect their concentration before operating a CMV.

3. **Anticipation:** Defensive drivers anticipate what may or may not happen, and they

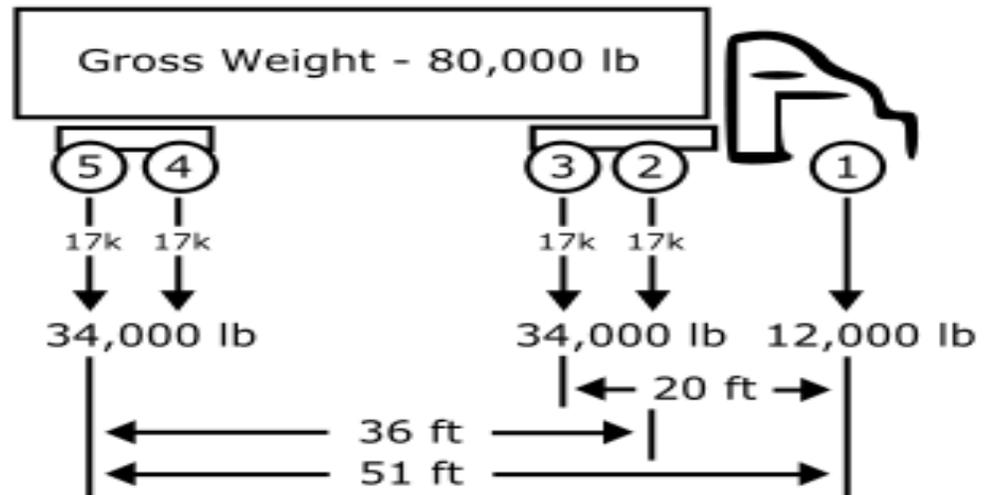
take action to avoid many problems. They anticipate potential hazards from other motorist, pedestrians, weather and equipment and take steps to minimize risk.

4. **Judgment:** Good defensive drivers do not make risky maneuvers like trying to beat red lights. They don't try to pass when unless it's safe and they look for alternatives to any traffic situation.

5. **Skill:** Good defensive drivers have the technical skills to operate a CMV safely and practice these skills.

Though statistically it is not the commercial motor vehicle driver that is at fault when an accident occurs, it is the drives responsibility to maintain and practice defensive driving techniques. The characteristics and driving techniques listed will improve driving behavior allow you the driver avoid potential accidents. Honing these skills will make you safer more confident and more valuable driver.

Bridge Weight/Legal Dimensions



April Anniversaries

Jimmy Bradford	1 Year
Jim Pawlak	1 Year
Bobby Morgan	2 Years
Leon Williams	3 Years
Jose Serrano	4 Years
A J Johnson	7 Years
Bruce Van Sickle	13 Years
Roy Jones	17 Years
Antoni Siemion	21 Years

April Birthdays

Sam Huff	04/11/2013
Keith England	04/16/2013
Vince Vinson	04/16/2013
Robert Miller	04/18/2013
LaGrandbery	04/18/2013
Jorge Flores	04/23/2013

When calculating the bridge weight it is important to know your gross weight. The federal gross weight limit on interstate systems is 80,000 pounds unless the Bridge Formula dictates a lower weight limit. This maximum weight allowed was put into place in the mid 1950's to protect bridges to the ever growing rate of trucks and truck loads. We at B T Trucking, Inc. only have to worry about the Tandem-Axle weight because non of our equipment used contains single axles. The Tandem-Axle

weight is the total weight on two or more consecutive axles whose centers are spaced more than 40 inches but not more than 96 inches apart. The federal tandem-axle weight limit on the interstate system is 34,000 pounds. This being said, the spacing between the far outer sides for the tandems can be no less then 36 feet to stay in compliance with the bridge weight and over weight law. The weight and spacing requirements and shown In the above picture. Violations of the bridge

weight law depending on the state can lead to fines and points on the drives and companies CSA score. This violation may also require the freight to be readjusted or off loaded until the vehicle is in compliance with the bridge law. Costing the driver and the company time and money. And stressing the relationship with the shipper when the freight is not delivered on time. This is why weights should always be check and in compliance.

FMCSA Urges use of proper GPS

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration launched a campaign last week to warn truck drivers about the dangers of using navigation systems designed for smaller vehicles. Stating, "It's very dangerous and unsafe for drivers to be using this within the vehicle" referring to the wrong GPS. Like myself, you are probably wondering why does

it matter which navigation system is used. The answer is this. If using a navigation system that doesn't provide you the important route restriction such as low bridge overpasses, the shortcut you thought would save you time and fuel, may, in fact, end up costing you a lot more money than you bargained for! According to a 2009 study done by the

New York Department of Transportation 90% of the state's bridge strikes by trucks were caused by drivers using the wrong GPS device. Not to mention the wrong GPS could lead you to areas with weight restrictions and other dangers. Avoiding these type of situations are why the proper GPS for the job is so important.