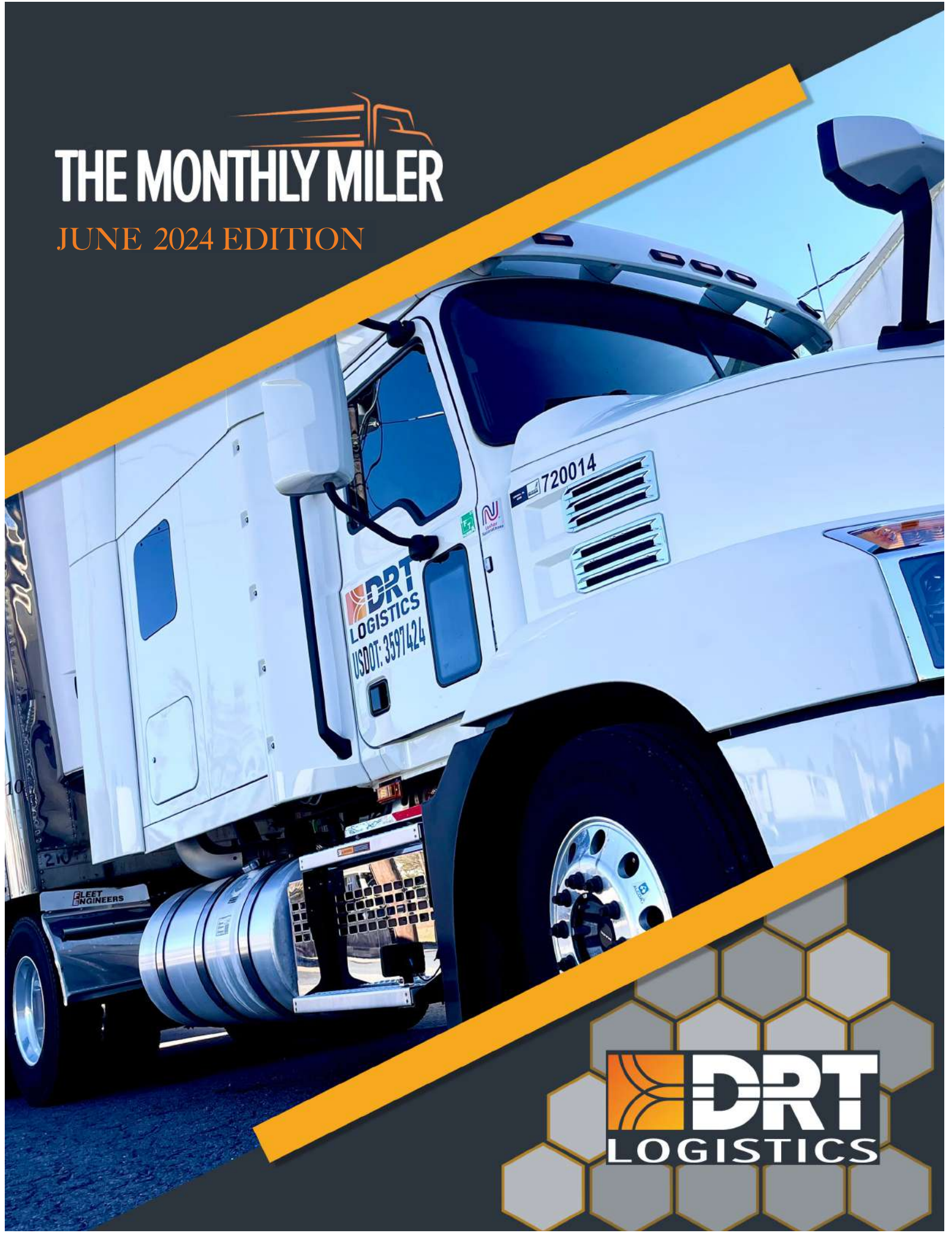




THE MONTHLY MILER

JUNE 2024 EDITION



DRT
LOGISTICS

2024 SUPPLY CHAIN INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

This month, we delve into the industry's key trends, drawing insights from S&P Global Market Intelligence's comprehensive report, "The Big Picture: 2024 Supply Chain Industry Outlook."



1. Supply Chain Resilience Amid Geopolitical Tensions

The logistics industry continues to face significant challenges due to ongoing geopolitical tensions. The report highlights how global supply chains adapt by diversifying suppliers and exploring alternative routes to mitigate risks associated with political instability. Companies are increasingly looking beyond traditional sourcing countries to enhance supply chain resilience. While initially expensive, this strategic shift is crucial for ensuring long-term stability.

Key Insights:

- Diversification of suppliers to mitigate geopolitical risks.
- Exploration of new logistics routes to avoid politically unstable regions.
- Investment in regional supply chains to reduce dependency on global networks.

2. Labor Shortages and the Push for Automation

In the face of severe labor shortages worsened by the pandemic and an aging workforce, the logistics sector is demonstrating remarkable resilience. S&P Global's report indicates a significant push towards innovative solutions such as automation. Companies are investing in automated warehousing and exploring the potential of autonomous vehicles for freight transport. Notably, European firms are leading the way with trials of driverless trucks, a testament to the industry's ability to adapt and find solutions in challenging times.

Key Insights:

- Increased investment in automated warehousing solutions.
- Trials and implementation of autonomous vehicles in logistics.
- Technological advancements reduce reliance on manual labor.

3. Sustainability Initiatives in Logistics

Sustainability is no longer optional in logistics—it's a critical imperative. The report highlights a heartening trend of major logistics players, including UPS and DHL, leading the charge in adopting eco-friendly practices. They are committing to ambitious carbon neutrality goals and investing heavily in green technologies, a clear sign of their dedication to a sustainable future.

Key Insights:

- Adoption of electric vehicles for delivery fleets.
- Optimized routing to reduce environmental impact.
- Major logistics companies commit to carbon neutrality.

These trends underscore the industry's resilience and adaptability in the face of ongoing challenges. By embracing diversification, automation, and sustainability, the logistics and supply chain sector is poised to thrive in 2024 and beyond. For a deeper dive into these trends and more, we encourage you to explore the full report by S&P Global Market Intelligence.

EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ken Clute
June 5
PA Driver

Scott Kimmel
June 26
Dispatcher

Lance Jeszenka
June 14
Dispatcher

Ray LaRoche
June 5
MA Driver

Gary Smith
June 2
PA Driver

Kevin Williams
June 13
Chicago Driver



Alan Barda
6 Years
Chicago Driver

Alberto Correcher
6 Years
NJ Driver

Patrick Fortenberry
6 Years
PA Driver

Gustavo Gonzalez
6 Years
NJ Driver

Joewy Cruz Rivera
2 Years
MA Driver

Ameal Selders
6 Years
PA Driver

SAFETY REMINDER!



Space Management

Managing the space around the truck is challenging. From driving in congested traffic to navigating a crowded parking lot, truck drivers must constantly track the hazards around them to prevent a collision. Read the information below and ask yourself how you can improve your driving style in any of the hazard categories.

RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS



ENVIRONMENT

Ice, mud, dirt, frost, and water can obstruct mirrors and windows, making it difficult to track the location of other vehicles. Road vibration can also knock mirrors out of alignment.



EQUIPMENT

A truck's blind spots are directly in front of the tractor, the tractor's right-front passenger side (which is the most dangerous), both sides of the trailer from front to rear, and directly behind the trailer. Missing, damaged, or misaligned mirrors hinder the driver's ability to monitor vehicles around the truck, while an inoperable turn signal prevents warning other drivers of an impending lane change.



PERSONAL BEHAVIORS

Unsafe driver behaviors: Not checking mirrors regularly for vehicles and objects around the truck, tailgating, making abrupt lane changes, and relying solely on mirrors and blind-spot warning systems.

Unsafe non-driving behaviors: Failing to conduct a proper pre-trip inspection, not using spotters or checking behind the truck before backing, not keeping windows and mirrors clean and adjusted properly.

KNOW THE DEFENSE



REACT PROPERLY TO HAZARDS

To avoid hazards around the truck, try the "lean and look" method to verify a vehicle is not hidden in the tractor's right-front blind spot. Also, avoid frequent or abrupt lane changes. Stay in one lane as much as possible. If a lane change is needed, signal your intent well in advance. Lastly, remember to "Get Out And Look" (GOAL) behind the truck before backing. Always use a spotter or traffic control assistance. Never back up across traffic lanes without assistance.



MAINTAIN PROPER FOLLOWING DISTANCE

Keep a minimum of six seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. Add more space if additional hazards, such as traffic congestion, construction zones, rain, fog, etc., are present.



BE ATTENTIVE TO THE ROAD AHEAD

Make quick glances to side mirrors to monitor the traffic around the truck, then return your focus to the road ahead to help avoid a rear-end crash.



VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Ensure turn signals on the tractor and trailer work properly. Clean windows and mirrors of debris, and ensure mirrors are adjusted properly before and during each trip. Make sure the backup beeper functions properly when the vehicle is in reverse.

Note: These lists are not intended to be all-inclusive.

DISCUSSING SAFETY AROUND THE VEHICLE

Safety around the Vehicle

Working on and around dry van trailers can expose a driver to potential injuries that could be costly to one's livelihood and lifestyle. Read the information below about preventing injuries around the truck, and then ask yourself how you can better protect yourself from harm.

RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS



ENVIRONMENT

The weather can create hazards around the truck. For instance, ice, snow, rain, and mud make surfaces slippery and can cause your feet to lose traction. These conditions can cause a driver to fall off the tractor, trip in a pothole, or slip and fall. Likewise, wind gusts can catch trailer doors and cause injuries.



EQUIPMENT

Cargo can shift while en route and fall on top of an unsuspecting driver when the driver is opening the trailer doors. Likewise, performing tasks like cranking the dollies, pulling the fifth wheel pin, and sliding the tandems often leads to shoulder and back injuries.



PERSONAL BEHAVIORS

Hurrying and ignoring safety procedures are key factors in work-related injuries. Drivers who fail to perform a thorough pre-trip inspection or do not utilize PPE increase the risk of personal injury.

KNOW THE DEFENSE



CONDUCT PROPER VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Walk around the vehicle and note defects thoroughly. Report issues to maintenance immediately for repair.



USE THREE POINTS OF CONTACT

Always face the equipment when climbing on or off and use three points of contact, meaning both hands and one foot or both feet and one hand are always in contact with the equipment.



UTILIZE PPE

Always wear gloves to protect your hands when handling freight or performing tasks like sliding the trailer tandems. Wear proper footwear with slip-resistant soles and steel toes, and ensure the footwear is made of puncture-resistant material. Utilize door straps to protect yourself from shifted or fallen cargo.



FOLLOW ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES

Stretch your back, shoulders, arms, and legs before performing tasks like uncoupling the trailer, cranking the dollies, sliding the tandems, or opening the trailer doors. Use the proper technique to avoid muscle strains and reduce the risk of cuts and abrasions. Also, do not inhibit your range of motion when performing these tasks. If parked too close to another truck or object, reposition your truck to give yourself more room to maneuver.



BE ATTENTIVE TO SURROUNDINGS

When working on or around the truck, be mindful of slip, trip, and fall hazards such as potholes, ice patches, and puddles. If working in the dark or low-lit areas, use a flashlight. Remember to slow down, and do not hurry.

Note: These lists are not intended to be all-inclusive.

TRUCKING SAFETY CALENDAR

We've compiled a comprehensive safety calendar featuring daily topics promoting a safety culture across our organization. Each calendar date highlights a specific safety topic, followed by corresponding talking points to facilitate discussions and reinforce the safety message for the day.

The calendar includes a collection of recommended practices that can greatly benefit our organization. Our proactive approach to safety awareness is essential in controlling and reducing claims and associated expenses.

These safety topics include slip, trip, and fall prevention, powered material handling, manual material handling, cutting safety, fire extinguisher safety, sprinkler system testing, industrial rack/module safety, and many others. By prioritizing safety and adhering to these guidelines, we can create a safer and healthier work environment for everyone at DRT.

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Tornadoes
2 Do not jump onto or off of loading docks.	3 Is your paperwork in order?	4 Do not let it get worse	5 Be a backup professional.	6 Cell Phones Increase Risk	7 Driving duty limits	8 Maintain a safe cushion
9 Driver inattention	10 Check your headlights.	11 Electronic Logging Devices (ELD)	12 Oversize and length permits	13 Sleep bank deposits	14 Prescription and over the counter medicine	15 34-hour restart rules
16 Self-assess	17 Fire extinguisher basics.	18 Correct or report slip, trip, and fall hazards.	19 My hands hurt when I go home. What could be causing it?	20 Wash Hands	21 Oh, my aching back!	22 Exercise
<i>Vispera de Año Nuevo</i>			<i>Juneteenth</i>			
23 Company Seat Belt Policy	24 How IS my driving?	25 Why use seconds?	26 <i>But I only closed my eyes for a second!</i>	27 Follow the doctor's orders	28 Making safe choices	29 Stay informed
30 Driving privilege						

DAILY REVIEW ITEMS FOR SAFETY CALENDAR

Day	Statement	Response
1	Tornadoes	Listen for authorized tornado watches and warnings. Take cover in a basement or in a first-floor interior room without windows. If you are caught while walking or riding away from a safe shelter, consider taking cover in a ditch or depression.
2	Do not jump onto or off of loading docks.	To help avoid injury, use designated employee stairways to enter or exit the building.
3	Is your paperwork in order?	Know and understand the information. Replace any missing information or forms; if unsure, contact a supervisor or responsible party(s). Do not hesitate to ask questions.
4	Do not let it get worse	Stop immediately, remain calm and breathe. Secure the scene, move off the road if possible, and have passengers remain in a safe place. Set out warning devices, turn on 4-way flashers, and follow your company's procedures on aiding the injured.
5	Be a backup professional.	<p>One of the dangers of driving is letting good driving habits fade into bad habits.</p> <p>Basic safe backing precaution requires getting out of the vehicle to ensure the path is clear but is repeated multiple times a day or a week. This repetition often reveals no hazards to avoid. As a result, it becomes easier to assume it is unlikely that you will encounter another object. But a professional driver knows that collisions usually occur while backing up.</p> <p>Do not drive like an amateur; be a pro. Be prepared and alert and follow basic and company backing procedures.</p>
6	Cell Phones Increase Risk	<p>Driving while talking on cell phones (handheld and hands-free) increases the risk of injury and property damage crashes four-fold.</p> <p>Review your company cellphone/distracted driving policy.</p>
7	Driving duty limits	Regulated passenger carrier drivers may not drive beyond the 15th consecutive hour after coming on duty following 8 consecutive hours off duty, and a 10-hour driving limit a day after 8 consecutive hours off duty over either the 60-hour/7-day or 70-hour/8-day duty limits. (Part 395 - Hours of Service of Drivers)
8	Maintain a safe cushion	A safe following distance allows for a safety cushion if unexpected hazards appear, road conditions change or the vehicle ahead of you suddenly stops or changes direction. If someone cuts you off, reduce your speed to regain a safe distance.
9	Driver inattention	<p>Driver inattention (both physical and cognitive) and distractions are the leading cause of traffic crashes--responsible for about 80 percent of all collisions--according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The number one source of driver inattention is cell phones, according to a Virginia Tech/NHTSA 100-car study. How many times a day or week do you see others distracted while using cell phones? Name other distractions you notice.</p> <p>Source: US DOT Driver Distraction in Commercial Vehicle Operations, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, September 2009: DriverDistractionStudy.pdf</p>
10	Check your headlights.	<p>Before starting your trip, make sure all of your lights are clean and working. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Daylight running lights. * High-beams.

DAILY REVIEW ITEMS FOR SAFETY CALENDAR

Statement	Response
<p>11 Electronic Logging Devices (ELD)</p>	<p>Who must comply with the electronic logging device (ELD) rule? The ELD applies to most motor carriers and drivers required to maintain records of duty status (RODS) per Part 395, 49 CFR 395.8(a). The rule applies to commercial buses as well as trucks, and to Canada- and Mexico-domiciled drivers. The ELD rule allows limited exceptions to the ELD mandate, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Drivers who operate under the short-haul exceptions may continue using timecards; they are not required to keep RODS and will not be required to use ELDs. * Drivers who use paper RODS for not more than 8 days out of every 30-day period. * Drivers who conduct drive-away-tow-away operations, in which the vehicle being driven is the commodity being delivered. * Drivers of vehicles manufactured before 2000. <p>Source: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/docs/regulations/hours-service/elds/74541/eld-rule-faqs-september-2018.pdf</p>
<p>12 Oversize and length permits</p>	<p>Prior to beginning a trip with an oversize or overweight load you must verify that you have the proper permits for the states that you plan to travel through. Pre-planning of the route will help ensure all of the proper permits are in place.</p>
<p>13 Sleep bank deposits</p>	<p>Adequate sleep means getting at least seven to nine hours of sleep. Schedule breaks about every 100 miles or two hours during long trips. Avoid having any alcohol or sedating medications prior to your trip. Check your medicine labels or ask your doctor.</p>
<p>14 Prescription and over the counter medicine</p>	<p>If you use prescription or over the counter drugs, you need to be aware of the regulations governing their use as commercial vehicle driver. The medication must be prescribed to you by a licensed physician. The role of the prescribing physician is to make a 'good faith' judgment that the use of the substance prescribed or authorized dosage level is consistent with the safe performance of your duties.</p> <p>If one or more doctors are treating you, you must show that at least one of the treating doctors has been informed of all prescribed medications.</p>
<p>15 34-hour restart rules</p>	<p>The 34-Hour restart rule states that from July 2013 the need for truckers to take two 1am-5am periods off in a 34-hour restart was suspended in Dec. 2014 for further research. The FMCSA conducted the CMV Restart Survey. In March 2017 results were sent to Congress. Once fully reviewed a final rule will be made. Drivers should continue to utilize the rule form from the FMCSA website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 60/70 Mile per Hour Limit * May not drive after 60/70 hours on duty in 7/8 consecutive days. A driver may restart a 7/8 consecutive day period after taking 34 or more consecutive hours off duty. * 34-hour restart no longer requires two periods between 1 am to 5 am. <p><i>Please be sure to review the Hours-of-Service rules periodically as they may change.</i></p> <p>Source: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/hours-service/summary-hours-service-regulations</p>
<p>16 Self-assess</p>	<p>Bad driving habits often develop slowly over time as good habits deteriorate. If you want to find out if you are as good a driver as you used to be, try this, count how many times during a single day or week you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Follow too close. * Slam on the brakes. * Fail to signal. * Cut someone off at an entry/exit ramp. <p>No matter what the total, the goal should be ZERO.</p>

DAILY REVIEW ITEMS FOR SAFETY CALENDAR

Statement	Response
17 Fire extinguisher basics.	<p>Use a fire extinguisher only if it is completely safe to do so. Make sure you have a clear path to the exit in case the extinguisher is not effective.</p> <p>If there is any danger at all from fire, smoke, fumes, or extreme heat, leave the area immediately and follow emergency protocols for a fire.</p>
18 Correct or report slip, trip, and fall hazards.	<p>Slips, trips, and falls are the most common accidents in America. Every effort should be made to eliminate these hazards.</p> <p>Correct or report poor housekeeping situations immediately.</p> <p>Contact a Zurich risk engineer for a RiskTopic on this subject.</p>
19 My hands hurt when I go home. What could be causing it?	<p>Seek advice from your health nurse about possible causes for hand pain. Do you work all day in repetitive work, or perform activity that requires you to hold your hands still for long periods of time? Although you may not be able to vary your work duties, there may be ways to prevent injury, such as taking mini breaks to vary your routine, stretching, and ergonomic tools and equipment.</p>
20 Wash Hands	<p>Frequent hand washing helps to prevent the spread of colds, flu, and other communicable diseases. The US Centers for Disease Control suggests following these five steps every time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap. 2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. 3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. (Need a timer? Hum the <i>Happy Birthday</i> song from beginning to end twice.) 4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water. 5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.
21 Oh, my aching back!	<p>If you go home each night with a backache, it is up to you to ask what might be causing it. Are you lifting too much weight? Are you putting yourself in awkward positions? There are many possible causes of back pain, both work-related and non-work-related. It is important that you investigate possible causes and seek solutions before it becomes unbearable.</p>
22 Exercise	<p>Regular physical activity helps improve your overall health and fitness while reducing your risk for many chronic diseases. It may seem difficult at first to find the time or energy to exercise, but even a little exercise a few days a week can help improve your health. Whether on the road (at rest areas and truck stops) or at home, try and go for short walks, do some push-ups, jumping jacks, stretch and engage in other physical activity.</p> <p>Always check with your doctor first to ensure you can perform new physical activities. Source http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/index.html</p>
23 Company Seat Belt Policy	<p>The driver and all occupants are required to wear safety belts when operating the vehicle.</p>

DAILY REVIEW ITEMS FOR SAFETY CALENDAR

Statement	Response
24 How IS my driving?	Feedback about driving behavior comes from a variety of sources including motor vehicle reports, accident reports and roadside violations to name a few. However, the driver should be the most influential monitor of their own driving. The driver has the most to lose if involved in a crash or for receiving multiple driving citations. Regulated drivers' roadside violations can be reviewed by prospective employers, who could determine a driver's employability in the future. Only you know how many chances you are willing to take.
25 Why use seconds?	Why should I use seconds instead of a vehicle count (e.g., a couple of car lengths) as a following distance measure? The following distance based on the number of vehicles can be too subjective. The length of vehicles varies. A compact car is a lot smaller than a large box truck or tractor-trailer.
26 <i>But I only closed my eyes for a second!</i>	<p><i>But I only closed my eyes for a second!</i></p> <p>At 60mph, a single second translates to speeding along for 88 feet. That is the length of two school buses.</p> <p>According to the NHTSA, drowsy driving causes approximately 80,000+ crashes a year. These accidents result in an estimated 35,000 injuries and 1,000 deaths. Those who sleep less than six hours are three times more likely to be involved in a crash.</p> <p>Get adequate sleep. Most adults need 7-9 hours to maintain proper alertness during the day.</p>
27 Follow the doctor's orders	If your physician requires you to take prescription medications, receive therapy, or follow special dietary guidelines, be sure that you follow the instructions for your personal health and safety while driving.
28 Making safe choices	Unfortunately, outside factors can have a negative impact on your decision making. Do not let missing a turn or running late for an appointment upset you and shift your attention from safety. Do not let the temptation to try to beat a traffic light win out over good judgment. Make the safer choice.
29 Stay informed	Dispatchers and drivers should check for any special situations or conditions that could pose a safe driving hazard before a trip begins and for the duration of the trip, such as delays, traffic, and condition of vehicle or cargo.
30 Driving privilege	Avoid losing driving privileges due to administrative cancellation resulting from a failure to pay tickets, non-driving-related reasons, or not reporting a change of address.

THE LATEST NEWS IN THE INDUSTRY

A New Wave of AI Is Coming to Trucking

Numerous technology vendors serving the freight transportation industry are investing in AI to drive their future product development and ultimately unlock higher levels of safety and productivity for motor carriers and third-party logistics providers.

While the industry today is still in the earliest stages of implementing the latest advances in AI, the potential use cases are diverse and virtually endless, encompassing driver safety, worker efficiency, vehicle maintenance and business intelligence to name a few.

Tom McLeod, CEO of McLeod Software, said recent advances in technology have paved the way for AI to flourish in freight transportation.

“Really in the last few years, we’ve had the compute power and the enormous storage requirements for these technologies to work,” he said. “They’ve reached a price point making them accessible and potentially available for widespread use.”

Given those developments, the latest wave of AI appears to be at the tipping point where broad adoption can begin and ultimately become mainstream, McLeod said at the McLeod Software AI Conference, which the transportation management software provider hosted Feb. 28 at its headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

McLeod Software, for its part, has been using machine learning in its rate predictor, a function within its MPact Pro market analysis product designed to forecast freight rates up to two weeks in advance.

The company also has other AI projects in the works, including efforts to make unstructured data more useful and adding generative AI tools to streamline processes, and is working alongside other tech vendors to implement new capabilities through software integrations.

“What we’re doing is helping to automate the routine things, the things you’re having to do manually right now, to make your company more productive,” McLeod said.

CONTINUE READING AT: <https://www.ttnews.com/articles/new-wave-ai-coming-trucking>

“Advances in Artificial Intelligence Can Automate Manual Processes and Unlock Greater Efficiency”

