

Wright Knox Motor Lines, Inc.

Newsletter

Volume7August2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you to all our drivers for working through the Implementation of ELD's. I know it has been an adjustment and it is evident most of you have really increased your time management skills to continue achieving on time deliveries. There have been very few HOS violations; and most of you have learned how to handle edit issues, requiring little help from us. Also, I want to thank you for keeping your updates current, as this helps with data that is required to allow us to continue with the electronic trip reporting. Everyone in the office appreciates your efforts!

FROM Dispatch:

Aaron Tremberth received compliments from broker Traffic Tech for a job well done! Thank you Aaron for making a critical delivery from Park City KS to Leetsdale and Monroeville, PA on time!

FROM Rhonda and Karen:

Please write your name, truck and trailer number on your Bills of Lading and expensesso we can properly track your expenses for reimbursement and billing for our customer and brokers.

FROM JERRY KNOX, Garage

Thank you to everyone for doing a great job during the transition of managers.

Garage Safety Meeting Notes:

Weekly meeting notes:

7/6/18 Personal Protective Equipment for eye and face were discussed and a video on this subject viewed.

7/13/18 PPE - Protect hands using the proper gloves for the job. Discussed Trailer valves because a driver called with an issue during the meeting, allowing all mechanics listened to the explanation.

7/20/18 PPE - Footwear protection video. Discussed new tubes of grease and how to apply.

7/27/18 PPE - Head protection "keeps you covered" video. Guest Daryl Phipps.

ALL EMPLOYEES

The minutes of our safety meetings are included to let you know the issues we are seeing that need improvement. Therefore, PLEASE LET THE ABOVE SAFETY COMMITTEES KNOW IF THERE IS AN ISSUE WE NEED TO ADDRESS. WE ARE ONLY AS SAFE AS OUR EMPLOYEES AND WE WANT TO DO OUR VERY BEST TO CREATE SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS.

From Harold, Operations....

DEF...if you anticipate running out of DEF and must purchase away from terminal, please purchase at the pump. Just a side note: Rodney Keith found a few empty DEF jugs laying around, which he brought home and we will refill them at the garage so you can keep some with you.

From Martin, Safety.....

All drivers, please remember to take your medical card which you receive at the physician's office after your physical, to your DMV center. The DMV will add your card to the system and give you a receipt indicating they did so. Bring the receipt to Martin, who will copy this for your file. Carry your receipt and your medical card. The receipt provides proof that your medical is in the system. Martin will run your DMV record to ensure it has been properly applied.

ROADSIDE INSPECTION NEWS WITH WKML....

NO VIOLATION ROADSIDE INSPECTIONS FOR:

Todd McCullough 10/6/17
Bob Fedoruk 10/24/17
Brian Bieda 10/25/17
Vince Tomak 11/7/17
Mark Pahulick 12/13/17
Brian Mack 2/8/18
Butch Hewitt 2/19/18
Gary Steele 2/26/18
George Taylor 3/16/18
Todd McCullough 3/12/18

Aaron Tremberth 3/26/2018
Brian Mack 4/4/18
Jim Miller 4/6/2018
Jeremy Nixon 4/19/2018
Ryan Hellner 5/17/2018
Brian Mack 5/17/2018
Russ Heidler 6/11/18
Bill Slagle 6/21/18
Jim Carbone 7/9/18
Jeremy Nixon 7/24/18

Thank you drivers, mechanics and dispatch!

Roadside Inspection UPDATE

Wright Knox Motor Lines, Inc. CSA SCORES

Unsafe Driving	21%	Crash Indicator	8%	HOS	23%
Vehicle Maint.	10%	Controlled Subs.	0%	Haz. Mat.	0%
Driver Fitness	0%				

Unsafe driving down 7%, maintenance down 4%, Crash indication no change, **HOS increase by 1%**.

ROADSIDE INSPECTION NEWS AROUND THE COUNTRY

[Nearly 1,600 CMVs with Critical Brake Violations Were Removed from Roadways During Unannounced Brake Safety Day](#)

Fifty-two U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions conducted 11,531 roadside inspections on commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) and removed 1,595 vehicles with brake violations from our roadways on April 25, 2018, as part of CVSA's unannounced Brake Safety Day enforcement initiative.

FUTURE ENFORCEMENT

[Law Enforcement to Collect Rear Impact Guard Data the Week of Aug. 27-31](#)

During the week of **Aug. 27-31**, each state's commercial motor vehicle law enforcement department may select one day of that week to capture data on rear impact guards on trailers and semi-trailers in the United States.

TRAINING TIDBITS by Jeremy Nixon, Driver Training Safety.

Backing Up A Tractor Trailer? Some tips to help you keep it safe.

At Wright Knox we have some difficult places we get into. So here are some things to help. Even experienced truck drivers will have those days where for some reason backing up their trailer is just not working for them. Everyone is going to have days like that sooner or later.

Of all the tractor trailer maneuvers you will have to do, backing up is sure to be one of the most difficult to master.

1. Pull Up

There is not a truck driver alive that perfectly backs his/her semi trailer every single time. It just doesn't work that way. Take it slow and don't let anyone rush you.

If you see that you messed up just pull up or pull around to set up your back in again. Take as many pull ups as you need until you get it right. Again, take your time and eventually you will get it right. In time you will get better at backing up.

2. Practice. A lot.....

Get a feel for how your trailer moves and reacts to your driving and you will be able to back up much better. This takes practice though. No two drivers are the same, what works for you doesn't necessarily work for someone else. If there was one universal way to back up a trailer then this article wouldn't exist.

Go through the rest of these tips and see which one works best for you. Once you find the one that you like, the only way to get better is to practice, practice, practice.

3. Look At Your Steering Wheel

Something to remember is that when backing up your tractor trailer you can look at your steering wheel for some help. This tip is considered one of the most useful ones that all drivers should learn during training. If you haven't heard about this steering wheel trick here it is:

The top of the steering wheel (toward your wind shield) is the truck and the bottom of the steering wheel (by your lap) is the trailer. Here is how the steering wheel can help you:

While backing, when you turn the steering wheel to the right the top goes right and the bottom goes left. This means your trailer will go left.

If you turn your steering wheel to the left the bottom of the steering wheel will go to the right. This means your trailer will go to the right.

4. Get Out And Look! (G.O.A.L.)

This is the one tip that drivers overlook because they don't want to look like they can't drive. Don't be afraid to get out of your truck and look at what you are

doing. If someone does have something to say because you are trying to back up without hitting something just ignore them. It's not worth your time to worry about what other drivers think. Even experienced drivers at some point didn't know how to back up either.

Do yourself and the other people around you a favor and get out of your truck to make sure you are doing things right. There's nothing to be ashamed of. The only thing to be ashamed of is if you hit someone's truck because you are too lazy to get out and take a look at your tractor trailer's position while backing up.

5.Look At Your Tandems

Look at the your tandems too, don't just focus on the trailer. If there are lines on the pavement you can use them to help you judge your angles.

6.Turn Off Distractions

The world is not going to end if you turn off your CB, phone, and stereo for several minutes as you are backing up. Please, limit as many distractions as you can so that you can focus on backing up and not hitting anything.

7.Get Help From Another Truck Driver Only

If you do get help from a spotter you better be sure that they are a trucker. Someone that has never driven a tractor trailer has no idea how to back up a trailer and can do more harm than good. If someone offers to help but are not a truck driver just tell them no thanks.

8.Avoid Backing Up!

It makes sense. If backing up isn't your driving strength then you should avoid doing it. A word to the wise is to just avoid backing up by planning and parking in spaces that you can pull through. It will save you time and minimize the risk of hitting something.

9.Use Your Mirrors

While backing up you have to use both mirrors. The mirrors are there for a reason, to help you back up! Take your time and check those mirrors often. One more thing regarding mirrors, keep your eyes moving and don't fixate on one mirror.

10.Go Slow

Going slow seems like common sense when backing up but not everyone does it. Take your time, check your mirrors, and get out of the truck to see how you are

doing. It's much better to take a long time backing up than going fast and hitting another tractor trailer.

11. Ask For Advice

Ask some other drivers that you know are experienced what they do to help them back up. Everyone has their tricks of the trade that they are usually willing to share with you. Don't be ashamed or embarrassed to ask for help. After all, at some point everyone was a rookie driver too. Those experienced drivers that have been driving for 20+ plus years have a wealth of information to pass on to you. Make it worth their time by offering to buy lunch or dinner.

12. Imagine An Aerial View

This one works great for a lot of truck drivers learning to back up. Pretend you are looking down at a toy truck. Now look at the way your trailer sits. What do you have to do in order to square up with the space? It will also help to get out of your truck and take a look at your trailer and where you want your trailer to go.

13. Watch Your Tires And Axles

Don't focus on the back of your trailer. Sure, you have to check the trailer to make sure you aren't going to hit anything but try focusing on your axles and where they are going.

14. Say No!

There will be times when you will arrive to pick up or deliver a load somewhere where you know your tractor trailer won't fit or there will be too many obstructions in your way. This is a problem because the obstructions can prevent you from being able to properly set up. Don't be afraid to ask someone to move whatever is blocking your path.

I know some drivers are going to give me grief for this but there is no shame in admitting when a backup is just not possible. Your safety should be your top priority.

15. Keep Your Foot On The Brake

When you start rolling backwards you should be going really slow. Be sure to keep your foot covering the brake pedal so that you are always ready to slow down or stop. A good precaution in case you start rolling too fast.

16. **Get The Attention Of Others**

Make yourself visible to other drivers by turning on your hazards when backing and hit the horn so get the attention of people around. You want the people around you to know you are about to start backing up.

17. **Every Backup Is Different**

No two backups are exactly the same. You might deliver to the same location several times and each time your backup could be different. Don't assume that once you do a few good backups that you are an expert. No one is an expert. Backing up is something that does get easier with experience but it's definitely one of the more difficult maneuvers when driving a tractor trailer.

18. **Preview The Area**

Before you start backing make sure to look around for cars, garbage dumpsters, people, other truckspower lines, wires, nails, broken glass and just about anything else that could make the backup more difficult. Do this before you even begin your setup.

With these tips hopefully we can stay safe out there. Remember nothing is worth doing if it can bring harm to yourself or others.

Safety first and Always.



ANNIVERSARIES!!!!

Harold Wright 8/27/82
Butch Hewitt 8/14/93
Raymond Smeltzer 8/7/02
Mark Pahulick 8/4/14

Thank you for your years of dedication to excellent driving and service of our customers. Our company is only as good as our employees & we think you are great!

Other Employee News

Welcome to new trainees James Humbert, Jr. Jim spent 3 weeks learning about the trucking industry, trip planning, learning to shift and move around the yard and a few trips with **Martin**. He is learning well and now on the road with Driver Trainer **Jeremy Nixon**.

Jason Hozak, recent graduate of ICTC, started on the road with Trainer **Jeremy Nixon**; he is already advanced to Driver Trainer **Greg Riffer**, to finish his training and receive his own tractor!

Welcome to new driver: Doug Heck, referred by Mark Pahulick! Thank you Mark! Doug has several years' experience and is looking forward to getting home time with his family, a larger paycheck and good equipment! We are excited to have Doug join our team.

Tuition reimbursement program!!!

Know any OTR students? Strapped for cash and worried about OTR school payments; getting sucked into a large company that will keep them out for several weeks to 3 or 4 months just to have their OTR schooling reimbursed?

Have them give WKML a call, we may be able to work with them!

Employee Snoopy news

You may have notice [Brian Bieda](#) is sporting short hair these days. He recently had his locks cut off and donated the length to Locks of Love, a charity that makes human hair wigs for cancer patients.

- **Enjoy a night at the Races with your Family!**

Race Tires of America has free tickets for August 11, the Race Tires of America night at Jennerstown. Please contact Harold at the office or his cell phone 412-289-5933 for tickets.

The ladies are more excited than the drivers that trip reports are in the rear view mirror!!! They celebrated with an evening dinner at Griff's!





Jeremy Nixon just returned from an exciting Disney vacation with his wife and son. This was his 23rd visit to Disney! Jeremy knows all the best dining spots with the best food, and best times to do things. Seems his trip planning expertise extends to very detailed planning for everything from fuel stops, room reservations, to every meal and park visits in between!



And here is Jeremy with family and friends enjoying a fishing weekend!

WHEN you start to see construction above bridges, here is the reason.

A new law in Pennsylvania is intended to improve safety and deter delinquent behavior on various overpasses around the state.

Gov. Tom Wolf has signed into law a bill to mandate the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation erect fencing on certain state-owned bridges. Previously SB564, the new law took effect immediately.

PennDOT already has guidelines in place for protective fence-railing. However, the rule applies only for limited circumstances that include where there is a bridge with a sidewalk over an interstate, railroad or other limited-access freeway.

The new rule requires protective fencing to be included on new bridges. The rule also applies to existing interstate bridges when a major renovation is needed.

A provision added to the bill in the House includes a requirement for the state DOT to consider fencing on bridges known to be suicide hot spots.

PennDOT also is required to consider installing protective fencing on overpasses where there is a history of objects being dropped from the bridge onto the roadway.

“This bill will undoubtedly improve the safety of our transportation infrastructure and help further protect pedestrians and motorists alike,” Sen. Gene Yaw, R-Lycoming, said in a released statement.

Speeding is going to cost you more in these states

July 10, 2018 _

Motorists like to complain about traffic cops in their hometown. We all know which towns to hit the brakes and which towns you can get away going 5 mph over the limit. For truckers, it would be nice to know which states have the costliest speeding enforcement. Online financial website WalletHub figured out just that.

[WalletHub analyzed](#) the speeding laws of all 50 states and D.C. to find out which states are the strictest when it comes to speeding motorists. Data considered includes at what point speeding is considered reckless driving, type of speed limit (absolute or with exception), average increase in cost of insurance after one speeding ticket, laws in place prohibiting highway racing,

use of speed cameras, penalties for aggressive driving, and effect of speeding tickets on license suspensions.

So which states are the strictest when it comes to speeding?

Below are WalletHub's 10 strictest and 10 softest states when it comes to speed enforcement. See if your state ranks among the best or worst:

Strictest

1. Colorado,
2. Arizona,
3. Delaware,
4. Illinois,
5. New Mexico,
6. Virginia,
7. Iowa,
8. Massachusetts,
9. Alabama,
10. District of Columbia

Softest

1. Texas,
2. Utah,
3. South Dakota,
4. Pennsylvania,
5. Mississippi,
6. New Hampshire
7. South Carolina,
8. Ohio,
9. New Jersey,
10. Nebraska

Although there seems to be a concentration of high scores on the coasts, Delaware and Arizona take the top two spots. Texas, Mississippi and Oklahoma appear to have better things to do than focus on speeding motorists.

According to WalletHub's study, the average cost of the most serious reckless driving ticket is \$845. In Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico and Ohio, reckless driving violations are as low as \$100. In Oregon, it's as high as \$6,250.

As WalletHub points out, speeding is dangerous and was a factor in 27 percent of vehicle crash deaths in 2016. No secret to truckers, going over 60 mph, or thereabouts, can be less fuel efficient as well. Point being, no one is encouraging speeding here.

Keep in mind, these numbers likely pertain to passenger vehicles. With that said, which states do you think are the strictest and most lenient for truckers when it comes to speeding