

2024 Safety calendar







How the calendar works

Each calendar date has a daily safety topic listed. After December there are talking points listed that correspond with the safety topic for that date. Supervisors can use the talking points to assist in communicating the safety message for the day. The safety topics in the calendar repeat every few months.

The information in the calendar is an accumulation of recommended practices. It should be of great value to your operation. Management generating safety awareness is a key practice to help control and reduce claims and related expenses.

The safety topics provided cover 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 other topics.



January

			January			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Let's kick off a safe new year!	1 Visually inspect the scene	2 Cyclists	3 Aggressive driving	4 Consuming alcohol	5 Watch for school buses	6 Do you know the consequences?
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A visit to Real Ville	Driving physically impaired	Hours of Service	Top ten driver distractions	Calculating your following distance	Interventions	Know your neighborhoods
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Be aware near schools	Driving privilege	Self-assess	What are the risks of speeding?	Fire extinguisher basics: use the <i>PASS</i> system to put out the fire.	Always wash your hands after using the restroom.	When you work with chemicals, you have a right to know
	Vispera de Año Nuevo					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Healthy choices	Floods	Relaxing	What does building a bridge mean regarding back safety?	Counter measures	But I only closed my eyes for a second!	Remember the ABC's
28	29	30	31			
Sleeper Berth Provisions	Adjusting following distance	Follow the doctor's orders	Eliminate distractions near schools			



February

			i Cbi dai y			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
By Feb 1, Post OSHA 300A summary log in a conspicuous place or places where notices to employees are customarily posted. Lent starts on the 14th				1 Avoid hard turns	2 Check your headlights.	3 Maintain a safe cushion
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Prescription and over the counter medicine	Crosswalk safety	Follow company alcohol policies	Space and speed	Pledge to not be distracted	Captain of the trip	Be a backup professional.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Do not let it get worse	Drivers need <i>shades</i>	Being a mentor and a role model	Good shoes are essential to preventing slips, trips, and falls. Vispera de Año Nuevo	Federal cell phone restrictions	Cell Phones Increase Risk	Clean windows
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Use the 4 second rule when following another vehicle.	Lining up	The right stuff	At fault	Sleep bank deposits	Driver inattention	Quality Rest
25	President's Day	27	20	20		
25 Never pass school buses on the right	26 Click it or Ticket	27 Driving privilege	28 Health and fatigue	29 Do you have a working fire extinguisher in your home?		



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daylight Savings Starts: Check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace if necessary.					1 Refueling	2 Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives.
3 Wash Hands	4 Fire extinguisher basics.	5 Hours-of-Service	6 Planning your route	7 Nutrition	8 Practice a fire safety plan at home with your family.	9 Fatigue
10 Hand washing basics.	11 Heart disease	12 Exercise	13 Bend at your knees; save your back.	14 Order loading	15 Top health risks	16 Blind spots
17 The seat belt pledge	18 Know your company's app	19 Rear-end collisions	20 Improving your odds	21 Changing weather	22 Stay informed	What is the proper way to lift a carton/object?
St. Patrick's Day	25	26	27	28	29	30
Reducing risks	Park safe	Use good judgment and take action to eliminate unsafe acts!	Vehicle security	Slow down for school buses	Crash statistics Good Friday	Storms
31 Healthy habits						



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
At the end of the month, take down and file the OSHA 300A summary log with your permanent records.	1 Visually inspect the scene	2 Cyclists	3 Aggressive driving	4 Consuming alcohol	5 Watch for school buses	6 Do you know the consequences?
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A visit to Real Ville	Driving physically impaired	Hours of Service	Top ten driver distractions	Calculating your following distance	Interventions	Know your neighborhoods
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Be aware near schools	Driving privilege	Self-assess	What are the risks of speeding?	Fire extinguisher basics: use the <i>PASS</i> system to put out the fire.	Always wash your hands after using the restroom.	When you work with chemicals, you have a right to know
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Healthy choices	Floods	Relaxing	What does <i>building a</i> bridge mean regarding back safety?	Counter measures	But I only closed my eyes for a second!	Remember the ABC's
28	29	30				
Sleeper Berth Provisions	Adjusting following distance	Follow the doctor's orders				



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Avoid hard turns	2 Check your headlights.	3 Maintain a safe cushion	4 Prescription and over the counter medicine
5 Crosswalk safety	6 Follow company alcohol policies	7 Space and speed	8 Pledge to not be distracted	9 Captain of the trip	10 Be a backup professional.	11 Do not let it get worse
12 Drivers need <i>shades</i>	13 Being a mentor and a role model	14 Good shoes are essential to preventing slips, trips, and falls.	15 Federal cell phone restrictions	16 Cell Phones Increase Risk	17 Clean windows	18 Use the 4 second rule when following another vehicle.
Mother's Day 19 Lining up	20 The right stuff	21 At fault	22 Sleep bank deposits	23 Driver inattention	24 Quality Rest	25 Never pass school buses on the right
26 Click it or Ticket	27 Driving privilege Memorial Day	28 Health and fatigue	29 Do you have a working fire extinguisher in your home?	30 Changing Weather	31 Footwear	



June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives.	3 Wash Hands	4 Fire extinguisher basics.	5 Hours-of-Service	6 Planning your route	7 Nutrition	8 Practice a fire safety plan at home with your family.
9 Fatigue	10 Hand washing basics.	11 Heart disease	12 Exercise	13 Bend at your knees; save your back.	14 Order loading	15 Top health risks
16 Blind spots	17 The seat belt pledge	18 Know your company's app	19 Rear-end collisions	20 Improving your odds	21 Changing weather	22 Stay informed
Vispera de Año Nuevo 23 What is the proper way to lift a carton/object?	24 Reducing risks	25 Park safe	Juneteenth 26 Use good judgment and take action to eliminate unsafe acts!	27 Vehicle security	28 Slow down for school buses	29 Crash statistics
30 Storms						



July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Visually inspect the scene	Cyclists	Aggressive driving	Consuming alcohol	Watch for school buses	Do you know the consequences?
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A visit to Real Ville	Driving physically impaired	Hours of Service	Top ten driver distractions	Calculating your following distance	Interventions	Know your neighborhoods
	45	46	47	40	40	20
14 Be aware near schools	15 Driving privilege	16 Self-assess	17 What are the risks of speeding?	18 Fire extinguisher basics: use the PASS system to put out the fire.	19 Always wash your hands after using the restroom.	20 When you work with chemicals, you have a right to know
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Healthy choices	Floods	Relaxing	What does <i>building a</i> bridge mean regarding back safety?	Counter measures	But I only closed my eyes for a second!	Remember the ABC's
28 Sleeper Berth Provisions	29 Adjusting following distance	30 Follow the doctor's orders	31 Eliminate distractions near schools			



August

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The new school year is coming, watch for buses!				1 Avoid hard turns	2 Check your headlights.	3 Maintain a safe cushion
4 Proscription and over the	5 Crosswalk safety	6 Follow company alcohol	7 Space and speed	8 Pladge to not be	9 Captain of the trip	10 Be a backup professional.
Prescription and over the counter medicine	Closswan salety	policies	Space and speed	Pledge to not be distracted	Captain of the trip	be a backup processional.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Do not let it get worse	Drivers need <i>shades</i>	Being a mentor and a role model	Good shoes are essential to preventing slips, trips, and falls.	Federal cell phone restrictions	Cell Phones Increase Risk	Clean windows
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Use the 4 second rule when following another vehicle.	Lining up	The right stuff	At fault	Sleep bank deposits	Driver inattention	Quality Rest
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Never pass school buses on the right	Click it or Ticket	Driving privilege	Health and fatigue	Do you have a working fire extinguisher in your home?	Changing Weather	Footwear



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Refueling	2 Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives.	3 Wash Hands	4 Fire extinguisher basics.	5 Hours-of-Service	6 Planning your route	7 Nutrition
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Practice a fire safety plan at home with your family.	Fatigue	Hand washing basics.	Heart disease	Exercise	Bend at your knees; save your back.	Order loading
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Top health risks	Blind spots	The seat belt pledge	Know your company's app	Rear-end collisions	Improving your odds	Changing weather
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Stay informed	What is the proper way to lift a carton/object?	Reducing risks	Park safe	Use good judgment and take action to eliminate unsafe acts!	Vehicle security	Slow down for school buses
29	30					
Crash statistics	Storms					



October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Visually inspect the scene	2 Cyclists	3 Aggressive driving	4 Consuming alcohol	5 Watch for school buses
6 Do you know the consequences?	7 A visit to Real Ville	8 Driving physically impaired	9 Hours of Service	10 Top ten driver distractions	11 Calculating your following distance	12 Interventions
						Yom Kippur
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Know your neighborhoods	Be aware near schools	Driving privilege	Self-assess	What are the risks of speeding?	Fire extinguisher basics: use the PASS system to put out the fire.	Always wash your hands after using the restroom.
	Columbus Day					
20 When you work with chemicals, you have a right to know	21 Healthy choices	22 Floods	23 Relaxing	24 What does building a bridge mean regarding back safety?	25 Counter measures	26 But I only closed my eyes for a second!
		Rosh Hashanah				
27 Remember the ABC's	28 Sleeper Berth Provisions	29 Adjusting following distance	30 Follow the doctor's orders	31 Eliminate distractions near schools Halloween		



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daylight Savings Ends: Check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace if necessary.					1 Avoid hard turns	2 Check your headlights.
3 Maintain a safe cushion	4 Prescription and over the counter medicine	5 Crosswalk safety	6 Follow company alcohol policies	7 Space and speed	8 Pledge to not be distracted	9 Captain of the trip
10 Be a backup professional.	11 Do not let it get worse	12 Drivers need <i>shades</i>	13 Being a mentor and a role model	14 Good shoes are essential to preventing slips, trips, and falls.	15 Federal cell phone restrictions	16 Cell Phones Increase Risk
	Veterans Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Clean windows	Use the 4 second rule when following another vehicle.	Lining up	The right stuff	At fault	Sleep bank deposits	Driver inattention
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Quality Rest	Never pass school buses on the right	Click it or Ticket	Driving privilege	Health and fatigue Thanksgiving	Do you have a working fire extinguisher in your home?	Changing Weather



December

22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Saturday
8 Practice a fire safety plan at home with your family. 15 Top health risks 16 Blind spots 17 The seat belt pledge 18 Know your company's app 22 Stay informed What is the proper way to lift a carton/object? to lift a carton/object?	ı
Practice a fire safety plan at home with your family. 15 Top health risks 16 Blind spots 17 The seat belt pledge Stay informed Stay informed What is the proper way to lift a carton/object? your beck. Heart disease Exercise Bend at your knees; save your back. Profer log and the sear belt pledge Stay informed Stay informed Description Stay informed Stay inf	
Top health risks Blind spots The seat belt pledge Know your company's app Know your company's app Rear-end collisions Improving your odds Changing Changing 22 Stay informed What is the proper way to lift a carton/object? Park safe Use good judgment and take action to eliminate buses	ading
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Stay informed What is the proper way to lift a carton/object? Reducing risks Park safe Use good judgment and take action to eliminate buses	
Stay informed What is the proper way Reducing risks Park safe Use good judgment and Vehicle security Slow down to lift a carton/object? Slow down buses	g weather
Stay informed What is the proper way to lift a carton/object? Reducing risks Park safe Use good judgment and take action to eliminate unsafe acts! Vehicle security Slow do buses	
	wn for school
Christmas Hanukkah Starts	
29 Crash statistics Storms Healthy habits New Year's Eve	



Responses

The purpose of this calendar is to provide management with a daily safety topic that can be discussed at morning or shift change meetings. The idea behind the calendar is repetitive training. However, some of the topics may be new and of great value to management and associates. Management may help verify the correct response to daily conditions by regularly training workers on these topics.

Not every possible scenario is listed on the calendar. The situations that are listed are those we know may commonly occur that might affect the safety and security of associates and the general public. These topics repeat every few months.

		January April July October
Day	Statement	Response
1	Visually inspect the scene	If you are involved in a crash, visually inspect the scene, and take photos that show contributing factors such as road conditions, traffic signals, lane markers, and skid marks. Take pictures from different angles, and, if possible, begin at 20 steps from the scene and then again at 30, 50, and 100 steps.
2	Cyclists	Pay attention to cyclists and bike lanes. Always check your blind spot when turning through a bike lane and give them a minimum of 4 seconds of space when they are on the road.
3	Aggressive driving	If you find yourself overly upset while driving pull over and log off the app. Driving in a heightened emotional state can leech into your driving and cause accidents.
4	Consuming alcohol	No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four hours after using alcohol (FMCSA Section 382.207: Pre-duty use).
		Using alcohol means even one drink. No driver required to take a post-accident alcohol test shall use alcohol for eight hours following the accident or until after he/she is tested.
5	Watch for school buses	Obey all posted highway signs including changing speed limit zones and school zone area information signs. Anticipate that children may be present at other times as well, for example, attending after school activities.
6	Do you know the consequences?	Driving decisions are often affected by outside influences that cause a shift of focus away from the driving task. Glancing down at a cell phone or other device for even a few seconds can be the equivalent of driving the length of a football field blindfolded. Remember, the consequences could be permanent.
7	A visit to Real Ville	Is the risk of a crash worth answering a text, answering a call, adjusting the radio, or eating a meal while driving? Here is one of many faces of victims of a distracted driving crash; In May of 2008, a young woman and her parents attended her college graduation ceremony. On the way home, a young driver talking on his cell phone ran a red light, causing a tractor-trailer to swerve and crash into that vehicle. The young woman was critically injured, and both of her parents were killed instantly.
8	Driving physically impaired	Being awake for 17 hours is equal to a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.05%, (the level some countries use for drunk driving violations) leaves you at an increased risk of a crash. Source: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/emres/longhourstraining/impaired.html
9	Hours of Service	12-Hour Driving Limit : May drive a maximum of 12 hours after 6 consecutive hours off duty. Drivers can monitor their hours spent driving in the app.



		January April July October
Day	Statement	Response
10	Top ten driver distractions	 The National Highway Transportation Safety Association (NHTSA) has published a list of the top ten driving distractions. Do any of them apply to you? Using built-in car devices (touch screen, GPS, etc.) Adjusting vehicle controls (climate, audio, mirrors, etc.) Eating or drinking Using or reaching for a device brought into the vehicle Occupants — infants, children, teenagers, adults Looking at surroundings (rubbernecking) Operating a cell phone (dialing/texting) Smoking Reading Applying makeup
11	Calculating your following distance	To calculate a six-second following distance, watch the vehicle in front of you pass a non-moving object (e.g., overhead bridge, streetlight, billboard, tree, etc.) and begin counting (one thousand one, one thousand two, etc.). By the time you get to that same fixed object, you should have counted at least six seconds. Recommended practice for commercial motor vehicles is considered six to eight seconds following distance.
12	Interventions	As a driver, you have probably noticed another driver's attitude regarding safe driving is questionable or high risk in nature. As a fellow employee or friend, do not ignore the problem or avoid talking to them. You could be helping them keep their job, their life and/or save the lives of others.
13	Know your neighborhoods	Some neighborhoods can be dangerous to deliver to, especially late at night. Before exiting your vehicle, scan the area for potential hazards and keep a level head. If an area feels unsafe, carefully leave and contact support.
14	Be aware near schools	Be aware of the likelihood of inexperienced and reckless drivers in and near schools. Youthful drivers may make mistakes in judgment so be sure you are looking out for yourself by looking out for the mistakes of other drivers. Drive defensively.
15	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.
16	Self-assess	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: * Follow too close. * Slam on the brakes. * Fail to signal. * Cut someone off at an entry/exit ramp. No matter what the total, the goal should be ZERO.
17	What are the risks of speeding?	Traveling 65 mph in a 55-mph zone increases your odds of being in a collision by 31%. (ATRI) Speeding can increase liability in a crash situation. Observe reduced speeds in school, construction, and hospital zones. Remember, as a professional driver the expectations are high, but you are the person who may suffer unfortunate consequences.



		January April July October
Day	Statement	Response
18	Fire extinguisher basics: use the <i>PASS</i> system to put out the fire.	Pull the pin. Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire. Squeeze or press the handle. Sweep from side to side slowly at the base of the fire until it goes out. Remember to never endanger yourself. If the fire is too large to put out, sound the alarm immediately, and follow evacuation protocols.
19	Always wash your hands after using the restroom.	This is the easiest way to prevent foodborne illness.
20	When you work with chemicals, you have a right to know	For each hazardous chemical you work with, you need to understand the safety and health hazards, as well as know proper precautions to take to keep yourself and others safe. If you have any questions about a product you work with, you should review the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
21	Healthy choices	You are what you eat when it comes to good health, so the more you understand how to make good dietary choices, the better for your health. The same applies to understanding the benefits of counter measures to ward off fatigue. Fatigue countermeasures include: * Obtaining a minimum number of hours of restful sleep. * Employing napping strategies. * Taking sufficient rest breaks from driving. * Paying attention to variations in mood, motivation, and performance. With increased awareness, it is more likely you can act on the telltale warning signs of the onset of fatigue and waning alertness while driving.
22	Floods	Streams and river conditions can change dramatically when the snow is melting or during high levels of sustained rainfall. The force of flood waters can lift people, buildings, cars, vans, buses, and trucks off of the ground. Remember to: * Inspect any vehicle including trailers that may have been submerged while parked in a flooded area. * Check your cargo, wheels, seals, brakes, or other components for water infiltration.
23	Relaxing	Learn to lower the stress associated with your driving duties by recognizing stress inducing situations. Identify situations or conditions that are common <i>stress triggers</i> at work and during off-duty hours. Think about what creates stress before work, during work and in your personal life. Running late, financial concerns, personal relationships, traffic, or weather are just a few many people experience often. Worry only about those things over which you have control to relieve anxiety. Remember, you will be calmer in a fast-paced world both at home and at work, by learning to recognize, control and manage our own responses to stress.



		January April July October
Day	Statement	Response
24	What does <i>building a bridge</i> mean regarding back safety?	You may occasionally bend over to pick up a piece of paper or other debris or items on the floor or ground. When you do, be sure to <i>build a bridge</i> . This simply means to support your upper body (which weighs significantly more than your lower body). This can be accomplished by placing one hand on your knee or inner thigh or on a stable item, such as a table or counter. This support of your upper body will lower the risk of injuring your lower back. In many industries, strains and over exertion injuries remain one of the top workers' compensation causes of loss.
25	Counter measures	Here are some tips to help reduce driving fatigue. Pull off in a safe area and take a brief nap (15 to 20 minutes). Longer naps may result in sleep inertia, leaving you groggy and disoriented, which can be detrimental to driving. Drinking a caffeinated beverage may promote short-term alertness, but it takes about 30 minutes for caffeine to enter the bloodstream. Keep in mind that caffeine will not have much of an effect on people who consume it regularly.
26	But I only closed my eyes for a second!	But I only closed my eyes for a second!
	Second:	At 60mph, a single second translates to speeding along for 88 feet. That is the length of two school buses.
		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.
		Get adequate sleep. Most adults need 7-9 hours to maintain proper alertness during the day.
27	Remember the ABC's	Remember the ABCs: Arms (make sure wheelchair passenger's arms are close to the body); Belts (all belts secured); Clicks (listen for the click).
28	Sleeper Berth Provisions	Drivers using a sleeper berth must take at least 8 hours in the sleeper berth and may split the sleeper berth time into two periods provided neither is less than 2 hours.
		Please periodically check the FMCSA website for any HOS changes throughout the year.
		Sources: * https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/hours-service/summary-hours-service-
		regulations * https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/docs/brochure-
		* https://www.imcsa.dot.gov/sites/imcsa.dot.gov/liles/dots/brochdre- part-395-2006_508CLN.pdf
29	Adjusting following distance	When road and weather conditions deteriorate, or traffic volume increases, you should add more time between you and the vehicle ahead. Extreme conditions such as rain, ice, snow, and fog require adding space until you are sure you have time to suddenly stop without striking the vehicle ahead.
30	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.
31	Eliminate distractions near schools	Eliminate distractions in your vehicle. Consider turning off or turning down the radio, do not use your cell phone, or adjust any other electronic devices, and increase your alertness in and around school zones. Anticipate the children will disobey posted crossing signs and be prepared to stop.



		February May August November
Day	Statement	Response
1	Avoid hard turns	Avoid hard turns, sudden stops, quick accelerations, and driving over curbs or through potholes. Most of all, avoid being involved in a collision.
2	Check your headlights.	Before starting your trip, make sure all of your lights are clean and working. This includes: * Daylight running lights. * High-beams.
3	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.
4	Prescription and over the counter medicine	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.
		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.
5	Crosswalk safety	Always watch out for pedestrians. Be careful not to be blind-sided. When you see a stopped car near a crosswalk or road end, always slow down immediately. There is a good chance a pedestrian is trying to cross.
6	Follow company alcohol policies	If you choose to accept alcohol deliveries, make sure to follow the in-app guidelines for checking sobriety, scanning Identification, and safe transportation of liquor.
7	Space and speed	Are you driving a safe distance from the vehicle ahead? If it suddenly and unexpectedly stops, can you stop in time? Drive at a speed that allows you time to see and react to a panic stop of the vehicle in front of you.
8	Pledge to not be distracted	Take the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration pledge. Encourage your family and friends to do so too.
		Download the NHTSA form at http://www.distraction.gov/take-action/take-the-pledge.html
9	Captain of the trip	As a driver, you are the <i>captain of the ship</i> . By tradition, sea captains are responsible for returning their ships, sailors, and cargo safely to port. You are the captain of the ship and your trip. You have many <i>crewmembers</i> , from dispatchers to mechanics and emergency personnel patrolling highways. By being prepared and equipped with the skills and knowledge to safely operate your vehicle, you will be ready to navigate your way safely home.
10	Be a backup professional.	One of the dangers of driving is letting good driving habits fade into bad habits. 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. Do not drive like an amateur; be a pro. Be prepared and alert and follow basic and company backing procedures.



		February May August November
Day	Statement	Response
11	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.
12	Drivers need <i>shades</i>	When driving in sunny weather or when bright snow is present, make sure to have a pair of sunglasses handy. Sunglasses can help prevent eye strain and improve your visibility on the road. Additionally, sunglasses can help protect your eyes and the skin near them from harmful UV rays, keeping them healthy.
13	Being a mentor and a role model	If you exhibit the qualities of a professional vehicle driver, other drivers value your advice and help. To be an effective <i>coach</i> , be sure to demonstrate these traits: expertise, enthusiasm, clarity, empathy, and respect. Remember to lead by example.
14	Good shoes are essential to preventing slips, trips, and falls.	Shoes should be slip resistant and in good condition. Sports shoes are not all slip resistant. When you walk, your heel hits the ground first, so watch for wear and tear in the heel areas.
15	Federal cell phone restrictions	All regulated commercial vehicle drivers must follow the requirements regarding distracted driving, e.g., using cell phones and other mobile communication devices. There are driver penalties up to \$2,750 for the first offense and for each offense thereafter. CDL privileges could be suspended, and employers could be fined up to \$11,000.
16	Cell Phones Increase Risk	Driving while talking on cell phones (handheld and hands-free) increases the risk of injury and property damage crashes four-fold. Review your company cellphone/distracted driving policy.
17	Clean windows	Keep the windows inside and outside of a vehicle clean and transparent. Smudges and grime can build up over time and impede a driver's visibility. * Regularly wipe down the inside of the windows with a microfiber cloth. * Refill windshield washer fluid and replace windshield wiper blades at least every six months.
18	Use the <i>4 second rule</i> when following another vehicle.	At a minimum, there should be at least 4 seconds of separation between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you. This allows for a safe cushion if unexpected hazards appear, road conditions change, or the vehicle ahead of you suddenly stops or changes direction. To calculate the following distance, watch the vehicle in front of you pass a non-moving object (e.g., overhead bridge, streetlight, billboard, etc.) and begin to count (one thousand one, one thousand two, etc.). By the time you get to the same fixed object you should have counted at least 4 seconds. If conditions are adverse (wet pavement, poor lighting, etc.) add one second for each.
19	Lining up	Be sure that you begin the backing maneuver by avoiding blind side backing. If needed, you should go around and re-position your vehicle. Having your mirrors aligned and in good condition will increase your visible line of sight. Remember, it is the responsibility of the driver to always back up safely whether using an assistant or not.
20	The right stuff	Professional drivers know they have a responsibility for the safety of other drivers, coworkers, other motorists, company vehicles, and equipment.
21	At fault	If you strike a vehicle from the rear, you may be partially (if not solely) responsible, especially when visibility, weather conditions and vehicle controls are degraded.



	February May August November
Statement	Response
Sleep bank deposits	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.
Driver inattention	Driver inattention (both physical and cognitive) and distractions are the leading cause of traffic crashesresponsible for about 80 percent of all collisionsaccording 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. Source: US DOT Driver Distraction in Commercial Vehicle Operations, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, September 2009: DriverDistractionStudy.pdf
Quality Rest	Family members play an important role in how much sleep we get. Communicate to your family members what your needs are. Remind them how important it is for you to get adequate sleep so you can stay safe on the road. Sometimes it may mean occasionally missing family gatherings, school functions, etc. But it is better than not living through a crash and not being there at all for your family.
Never pass school buses on the right	Because state laws vary, it is best to review the laws of the state where you operate. However, a best practice is to never pass a school bus on the right side as this is the side that children exit the bus. In most State's when the bus's lights are flashing yellow and/or red it is illegal. Laws regarding divided highways also vary from State to State. Expect delays. The opening of schools means an extra half million school buses on the road, in addition to the extra millions of vehicles operated by teachers and students returning to school.
Click it or Ticket	A driver cited for not wearing a seat belt during a roadside inspection may receive the maximum number of CSA points allowed, and both the driver and the motor carrier may be charged. Every year during holidays, law enforcement agencies join forces day and night, from coast-to-coast, for an enforcement blitz that delivers the message Click It or Ticket. The mobilization is supported by national and local paid advertising and earned media campaigns aimed at raising awareness before the blitz.
Driving privilege	Avoid losing driving privileges due to adminstrative cancellation resulting from a failure to pay tickets, non-driving-related reasons, or not reporting a change of address.
Health and fatigue	Drivers who are generally more health conscious in their beliefs and behaviors, and who are more physically fit, are more likely to maintain continuously high levels of driving alertness and attention. Source: http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/drowsy_driving1/listening/Sect3.htm
Do you have a working fire extinguisher in your home?	Include a working fire extinguisher in your disaster preparedness plans at home. Like all fire extinguishers, regularly inspect it to guarantee you have full charge when you need it.
Changing Weather	From summer to fall or winter to spring, changing seasons will require being prepared to handle different weather and road conditions. One precautionary step includes ensuring you have supplies to handle winter weather. Check the condition of snow removal tools and equipment, stores of salt, windshield washer fluid and appropriate bad weather gear (including warm clothing, gloves, hats, and windshield scrapers).
Footwear	Wear sturdy footwear with slip-resistant soles. You should know the situations and climate you will face each day.
	Sleep bank deposits Driver inattention Quality Rest Never pass school buses on the right Click it or Ticket Driving privilege Health and fatigue Do you have a working fire extinguisher in your home? Changing Weather



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Day	Statement	Response
1	Refueling	Maintaining a healthy diet helps you to sustain the necessary energy and alertness needed to drive safely. Pack healthy snack options and water before setting out to drive. This will prevent the need to pick up unhealthy options from gas stations and fast-food restaurants.
2	Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives.	Replace household smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries annually and test them regularly to ensure they work in the event of a fire or carbon monoxide exposure. Replace household: * Smoke detector units every eight to 10 years, or as recommended by the manufacturer. * Carbon monoxide detectors every five years, or as directed by the manufacturer.
3	Wash Hands	 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: Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. (Need a timer? Hum the <i>Happy Birthday</i> song from beginning to end twice.) Rinse your hands well under clean, running water. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.
4	Fire extinguisher basics.	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. 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.
5	Hours-of-Service	Hours-of-Service do not include any time resting in a parked vehicle (also applies to passenger-carrying drivers). In a moving property-carrying CMV, up to three hours riding in the passenger seat of the vehicle, either immediately before or after the sleeper berth time, can be used to in combination with seven consecutive hours in the Sleeper berth to accrue 10 consecutive hours off-duty.
6	Planning your route	Know if there are any travel restrictions on your route, be prepared to be stranded or delayed, check weather and road conditions from TV or radio stations, or internet websites such as the FHWA's national weather and road map, designated traffic hotlines, local police, emergency response personnel and state police.
7	Nutrition	Did you know that half of your plate for each meal should be fruits and vegetables? Healthy diets rich in fruits and vegetables may reduce the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. Fruits and vegetables also provide essential vitamins and minerals, fiber and other substances that are important for good health. Most fruits and vegetables are naturally low in fat and calories and are filling. Source: https://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/healthy_eating/fruits_vegetables.html



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8	Practice a fire safety plan at home with your family.	Develop a fire safety plan with your family and other members of your household. Update your plan, if needed, as your household changes. Practice your plan: * At least twice a year * When anything changes in your household
9	Fatigue	Fatigue is defined as mental or physical exhaustion and extreme tiredness or weariness resulting from physical or mental activity. Fatigue can be a symptom of a medical condition, but more commonly, it is a normal physiological reaction to exertion, lack of sleep (per the National Safety Council, 1 in 3 American workers is sleep deprived), boredom, changes of sleep-wake schedules or stress. How many of these do you think can affect your performance at work or ability to work or drive safely? Here are some fatigue warning signs related to driving: * Unable to stop yawning. * Trouble keeping your eyes open and focused, especially at stop lights. * Driving becomes sloppy and you weave between lanes, tailgate or miss traffic signals. * Finding yourself hitting the grooves or rumble strips on the side of the road. * Finding yourself opening a window or turning up the radio to say alert. * Driving aggressively to get to your next destination faster. Fatigue counter measures include obtaining a minimum number of hours of restful sleep, employing napping strategies, taking sufficient rest breaks from driving, and paying attention to variations in mood, motivation, and performance. With increased awareness, it is more likely you can act on the telltale warning signs of the onset of fatigue and waning alertness while driving. Improving and maintaining your health will improve your chances of living longer, spending more quality time with your family, and enjoying your hobbies and other fun and important parts of life.
10	Hand washing basics.	 When washing your hands: Place hands together under water (preferably warm). Apply soap (according to the manufacturer's directions) and rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds. Wash all surfaces well, including wrists, palms, backs of hands, fingers, thumbs, and under the fingernails. Clean dirt from under your fingernails. Rinse the soap from your hands. Use a towel to turn off the faucet. Dry your hands completely with a clean towel, if possible. If towels are not available, it is okay to air dry your hands. Pat your skin rather than rub to avoid chapping and cracking. Avoid turning off the water with your clean hands. Use your paper towel or elbow. Then use your towel to open any doors before towel disposal.



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11	Heart disease	Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) approximately 697,000 people die of heart disease in the United States every year.
		That is, one in every five deaths is caused by heart disease. To help prevent heart disease: * Eat a healthy diet. * Maintain a healthy weight. * Exercise regularly. * Do not smoke.
		* Limit alcohol use.
12	Exercise	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. Always check with your doctor first to ensure you can perform new physical activities. Source http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/index.html
13	Bend at your knees; save your back.	This old familiar message is still important.
14	Order loading	Ensure orders are placed in a secure location before driving. For orders with several drinks, ask the restaurant for a cup carrier. Making sure an order is situated in a safe place can prevent unnecessary distractions while driving.
15	Top health risks	The top critical health risks to commercial vehicle drivers can include: * Smoking and tobacco use * Obesity (being overweight) * Hypertension (high blood pressure * Poor eating habits, diet, and nutrition * Using alcohol, drugs, and other chemical substances * Lack of physical activity/physical fitness * Psychological stress and mental fitness
16	Blind spots	Be mindful of your vehicle's blind spots when changing lanes. This is generally at your 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock where the side mirrors do not reach. Depending on the size of your vehicle, pay attention to the blind spot obscured by the hood.
17	The seat belt pledge	Take the pledge: I will wear my safety belt because my wellbeing greatly affects my family and loved ones. It is my responsibility to maintain control of my vehicle. Using my safety belt is my best chance of remaining in control of my vehicle in a crash or emergency. I will always remember to buckle up.
18	Know your company's app	Most delivery apps have a function to contact authorities when emergencies happen. Know where you can access this function in your driver app to reach out for help. If you are in an emergency do not hesitate to call the police.



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19	Rear-end collisions	Rear-end collisions are historically one of the most common, most expensive, and easily avoidable types of collisions. Maintaining a safe following distance and avoiding distractions are key practices to help prevent a rear-end collision. Do not tailgate, remain alert (no talking on the cell phone or texting), and leave yourself enough space to react.
20	Improving your odds	During a crash, being buckled up helps keep you safe and secure inside your vehicle, whereas being completely thrown out of a vehicle is almost always deadly. Seat belts are the best defense against impaired, aggressive, and distracted drivers. Source NFTSA https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts
21	Changing weather	From summer to fall or winter to spring, changing seasons will require being prepared to handle different weather and road conditions. One precautionary step includes ensuring you have supplies to handle winter weather. Check the condition of snow removal tools and equipment, stores of salt, windshield washer fluid and appropriate bad weather gear (including warm clothing, gloves, hats, and windshield scrapers).
22	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.
23	What is the proper way to lift a carton/object?	When lifting cartons or objects: stand with your feet apart for good balance, with shoulders and hips aligned, bend at your knees, not your waist. Maintain the natural curve in your back. When lifting, let your leg muscles do the work. Keep the load you are lifting close to your body to ease the pressure on your spine. Turn with your feet; do not twist the trunk of your body. When you set the load down, squat down slowly by bending your knees.
24	Reducing risks	As a professional driver, you are expected to comply with the posted speed limits. For large vehicles, the stopping distances are greater than smaller vehicles, and highway speed limits are often set differently for trucks. Lowering speed gives you the time to see ahead and the ability to adjust to adverse conditions as they develop.
25	Park safe	When exiting a vehicle, always make sure to put the vehicle in park and turn off the ignition. Leaving a car in neutral or drive can cause damage to property and people. When parking on a hill with a curb, point the wheels toward the center of the road when facing uphill, and away from the center of the road when facing downhill. When no curb is present, face the wheels away from the center of the road.
26	Use good judgment and take action to eliminate unsafe acts!	Most injuries are the result of an unsafe act instead of an unsafe condition. Your actions can help to minimize unsafe acts, which can help prevent you from being injured. For example, use good judgment and if an item is too heavy to lift, use a mechanical assist or co-worker to help lift it.
27	Vehicle security	When parking your vehicle consider checking the following the following: * Is your engine off? * Are your doors locked? * Are your security measures in place? * Are your keys in hand? Drivers should be trained to not take chances, even if they are only away for a moment.



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28	Slow down for school buses	Slow down while approaching children that are awaiting school buses. Always stop for buses and wait patiently until all of the children have crossed the street safely. Pay attention to bus signals and wait until the bus has begun moving before you proceed.
29	Crash statistics	Use of, or reaching for, an electronic device made the risk of crash or near-crash event 6.7 times as high as non-distracted driving; and Text messaging made the risk of crash or near-crash event 23.2 times as high as non-distracted driving.
30	Storms	If you live in an area prone to violent weather, you can find advanced forecasts available through the local media or the National Weather Service, or you can obtain a weather alert device to provide notice of possible or imminent storms.
31	Healthy habits	By necessity, drivers have long hours of physical inactivity while driving. Seek help in developing an exercise and fitness program to help improve stamina and strength. If you are fit from exercising routinely, you can also reduce stress and improve your mental wellbeing.

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