

THE EVANS NETWORK

WINTER 2014



Special points of interest:

- **Winter Weather Driving**
- **Update on Medical Cards**
- **Fatigued Driving**
- **Unnecessary Violations on Roadsides**

Winter Weather Thaw

Winter weather always brings challenges for drivers. The 2013—2014 winter season has been no different. Giving us snow, ice, rain, wind, and below freezing temperatures...felt all through the country, including the southern states. Now that we will soon be approaching the end of this winter season, we have to remember not to let our guard down. Thawing out from winter brings its own problems such as, snow and ice melting, rain, and water laying on the roads due to poor drainage.

Some precautions to take are:

- Keep your equipment clear from buildup of snow and ice that could break off

causing damage to other vehicles. (Some states have laws and penalties in place for not removing snow and ice, such as, AL, AK, AR, CT, DC, GA, IN, MD, MA, MI, NE, NH, NJ, ND, OH, OR, PA, SC, WV, WI).

- Watch for water build-up on roads possible for hydroplaning and/or jackknifing.
- Potholes and poor road conditions can cause damage to your equipment
- Make sure the defroster and windshield wipers work properly with plenty of washer fluid.
- Check tires and brakes often.



- Have a full and safely secured fire extinguisher, flashlights, flares, 3 emergency reflective triangles, safety vest, and a complete accident kit with you at all times.
- Keep non-perishable foods, water, warm clothes, blankets, and first aid kit in case of emergency.
- Always drive safely without speeding, stay buckled up, and eliminate all distractions (including no cell phone usage unless stopped and safely off the road).

Jeffrey Shearer from terminal HOH, Columbus Ohio Knows Safety!

Jeffrey won an iPod in our Monthly Safety Drawing, and so can you by always following the DOT regulations.



Drivers Must Continue To Carry Medical Cards

The FMCSA has extended its Jan. 30, 2014 deadline to [Jan. 30, 2015](#) for CDL holders to use physical copies of their medical cards as proof of their medical status to roadside inspectors. The [Jan. 30, 2014 deadline for CDL holders to submit](#) medical qualification information to the drivers'



Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) record, however, remains unchanged.

The reason for this extension is due to some states failing to complete the integration of medical card status with CDLs. Until that

happens, [drivers must continue to carry their medical cards with them](#). CVSA has issued a bulletin directing roadside inspectors NOT to place drivers out-of-service in cases when the state licensing record does not reflect a driver's medical qualifications information but the driver presents a valid medical card.



Drowsy Driving Report

According to new research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, more than one in four motorists (28%) reported being so tired they had a hard time keeping their eyes open while driving in the past month. Drowsy drivers make the roads dangerous for themselves and others. Know the signs of fatigue: Trouble keeping eyes open and focused, yawning or rubbing eyes, head starts to nod, driving in and out of your lane, daydreaming, or cannot remember the last few miles driven. Even if you think you got enough sleep, skipping a meal or eating irregularly can be a big contributor to feeling tired. Healthy eating habits can combat daily driving fatigue. Drinking plenty of water to keep hydrated will keep your mind alert and focused. Always remember if you feel too fatigued to drive, **PULL OVER** and sleep until you feel you are safe to put it back in drive.



“Let’s not make it so easy for the DOT”...

All contractors need to follow this simple motto to avoid unnecessary violations. In a recent 10 day period the following violations were received by our contractors...each roadside had controllable violations that lead to senseless points. Poor logging habits, driving habits, or seatbelt habits put us and our drivers in a no win situation.

Six roadsides with Unsafe driving violations were sparked by Lane restrictions, Improper lane change, Speeding, and Seatbelts that would have turned out to be clean inspections if they wouldn't have received violations for what caused them to get pulled over in the first place.

Five roadsides with HOS violations such as Over 14 hours, 30 Minute Break violation, and No record of Duty Status, and Failing to retain previous 7 day logs resulted in 2 drivers put Out Of Service. Most of these lead to other Vehicle maintenance violations found and all together racked up a total of

330 CSA points.



We can improve. We can be successful with CSA but it starts with our drivers first and foremost.

No speed is acceptable over the speed limit. In every pre-trip inspection, you need to be re-viewing your log book. Never drive without a seatbelt. It's a simple formula for success...Let's not make it so easy for the DOT to find us in violation.

