

Safety Talk

Pre-trip Inspections

Believe it or not the leading cause of death and injury for all ages are motor vehicle crashes. When these accidents happen on the job there can be substantial financial effects on employees and their families as well as coworkers and employers. The CDC statistics tell us that 62% of vehicles involving a fatally injured worker were registered to a business. Another important statistic from the CDC states that about 60% of vehicular fatalities occur between 7 am and 4 pm- basically the hours of the workday. These facts alone should get your attention and make you realize the importance of driving safely and our company's driver safety program.

Inspecting your vehicle helps to ensure that it is safe and in good working order. Perform a pre-trip or pre-shift inspection before you use a vehicle. This can help prevent accidents and breakdowns. Follow the specific inspection procedures that have been established for the vehicle that you've been assigned. Most pre-trip inspections require you to check the engine compartment, start the engine, look inside the vehicle and do a walk-around inspection. If you perform the inspection the same way each time, you will be less likely to forget some part of the inspection. It's a good idea to review the last inspection report because it can be informative about the history of the vehicle. See what problems were listed and check to be sure that they were fixed. Don't use an unsafe vehicle; report problems to your supervisor so the vehicle can be kept out of service until proper repairs are made.

The general condition of the vehicle should be included in the inspection, look for damage. Is the vehicle leaning to one side? You should look underneath for oil, coolant, grease or fuel leaks. Before conducting an inspection you should know how to inspect the vehicle's lights, fluid levels, tires, wheels and rims, brakes, the steering system, suspension and exhaust system. Make sure the vehicle has the necessary emergency equipment; this includes a fire extinguisher, spare electrical fuses and warning devices (three reflective triangles). Any loose items inside your vehicle should be secured or removed because they can turn into dangerous projectiles. When you brake suddenly or when an accident occurs, loose objects will be thrown around the vehicle.

The pre-trip inspection can be boiled down to seven key steps. This helps make the process more manageable for you and increases the likelihood that it will be completed thoroughly and correctly each time.

1. Vehicle Overview
2. Check Engine and Compartment
3. Start Engine and Inspect Inside of the Cab
4. Turn Off the Engine and Check Lights
5. Do Walk Around Inspection
6. Check Signal Lights
7. Start the Engine and Check Brake System

During your trip watch the vehicles' gauges for signs of trouble; look, listen and feel for problems. By paying attention to your vehicle for changes you can help head off problems before they become serious. This simple process will help keep your vehicle in good working order and provide a safe way to get around.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How will the seven step inspection help you to inspect your vehicle?

Why will an inspected vehicle be a safer vehicle?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

____/____/____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

____/____/____
Date