

SAFETYFIRST

INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY



AHEAD OF
THE CURVE



Safety Management
Services Company, 2011

*An affiliate of
Cottingham & Butler*

Be Safe Out There

*The penalties for poor trip
planning are numerous, but they
all come down to one thing –
safety.*



CB Cottingham & Butler
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Proper Trip-Planning For Safety

A driver's role in trip-planning will vary from company to company. In some cases, drivers will use a regularly established route on each trip that requires little change in routine. On the other hand, drivers operating for an irregular route carrier are likely to require in-depth knowledge of trip-planning in order to operate in the most efficient and safe manner.

As a driver prepares for his/her trip, primary consideration must be given to one's own abilities and limitations. You need to ensure you are properly rested before beginning your trip. You also need to ensure you have a reasonable amount of time to complete the trip, adding extra time in the event of an emergency. Each trip must be planned in such a way that you're able to fully comply with the hours-of-service regulations. Stops for fuel, food, and rest should be planned at the beginning of the trip and not as an afterthought.

Trip-Planning Steps:

- Make sure all paperwork is up to date.
- Driver logs must be current to last change-of-duty status.
- Select the proper route with safety always the key factor (driver and/or dispatcher).
- Evaluate traffic conditions, truck requirements, weather, and other conditions.
- Estimate time required to safely complete the trip, adding extra time should delays be encountered.
- Plan when and where rest and fuel stops will be taken.
- Ensure you have proper directions for commercial motor vehicles.

REMEMBER . . .

All safe trips begin with proper trip-planning!