

# Safety News & Updates

## Important Notes

**Accidents:** Report all accidents to the Safety Department immediately. Business Hours 504-731-2841 xtn 117 or After Hours (Accidents Only) 504-858-7333.

**Roadside Inspections:** Report all inspections to the Safety Department immediately & fax the inspection report to 504-731-2831.

**Monthly Maintenance Recaps:** Must be submitted at the end of every month. Note all maintenance work performed on your truck including repair work resulting from roadside inspections.

**Tire Repairs:** Container/chassis tires must be inspected during pre-trip inspection, and before returning the equipment to any port or rail facility. Contact John for tire repairs in the Baton Rouge Area and Tim for repairs in the New Orleans Area.

John: 225-329-9932

Tim: 504-415-9027



## 2014 Driver of the Year Award

It's that time of year again! It is time to recognize those drivers that best exemplify Triple G Express' "Safe-customer Service" philosophy. Jerome Haynes and Robert Watson were chosen as "Driver of the Year" in 2013.

To be chosen as "Driver of the Year" for Triple G Express is no small task, and to be nominated for this prestigious recognition is a

monumental task. So, how does one get nominated? First of all you have to have at least one-year of unbroken service with the company. Secondly, you can't have any preventable accidents in the year you are being nominated. Also you can't have any moving violation during the year and you can't have any tractor violations during a roadside inspection.

Yeah, it's tough to get nominated! Every nominee deserves a handshake and a pat on the back for an outstanding performance.

Who are the nominees? You'll see their names on page 2 of this newsletter.

And please congratulate when you see them next. They deserve it.

We'll let you know real soon who are the winners.

## 2014 Roadside Inspections

Every year we see more inspections than the previous year and 2014 was no exception. Triple G Express Owner-Operators were inspected 60 times in 2014. The overwhelming majority of those inspections were performed by Louisiana State Enforcement authorities but they weren't alone. Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Arkansas enforcement also did quite a few inspections.

**Owner-operators paid \$1200.00 in fines and lost more than 90 hours of production time.**

Every truck owner knows that a well maintained truck is a profitable truck. It's just common sense. Prolonging needed repairs doesn't eliminate expenses. If you get popped with a violation for a repair that you have prolonged it's just going to cost you more money. First, you are going

to have to make the repair anyway! Then, it is likely you are going to get fined for the violation. Combine those expenses with the loss of production time consumed by a trooper inspecting your truck and further loss of time when you bring your truck to the safety department to verify that the violation was corrected, and your expenses can more than double.

And we haven't even mentioned your CSA score yet! All of those truck violations drive up your personal CSA score and you have to live with every violation for 36 months. Don't think that is a big deal? Well, try sporting a high CSA score on your resume' and see how far that gets you down the road.

**Here are some folks that need to be recognized because DOT inspected their truck last year and did not find a single violation:**

- ◆ Robert Watson
- ◆ Charles Toussaint
- ◆ David Peck
- ◆ Desjine Wilmore
- ◆ Willie Brumfield
- ◆ Joseph Charles
- ◆ Fred Tuckerson
- ◆ Luis Enamorado
- ◆ James Nicholson
- ◆ Richard Koppelaar
- ◆ Herman Rogge



## 2014 “Driver of the Year” Nominees

- |                     |                      |                  |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| ◇ James Nichols     | ◇ Kevin Constantine  | ◇ Farrar Johnson |
| ◇ Rodney Harness    | ◇ Kendrick Jones     | ◇ William Morris |
| ◇ Jacques Sullivan  | ◇ Watt Jones         | ◇ Byron Coleman  |
| ◇ Charles Toussaint | ◇ Will Lee           | ◇ Leonard Gales  |
| ◇ Michael Armelin   | ◇ Daryl Deemer       | ◇ Saul Jurado    |
| ◇ John Brossette    | ◇ Edilberto Gonzalez | ◇ Allen Pellebon |
| ◇ Danny Cherry      | ◇ Vernal Griffin     | ◇ Percy Robinson |
|                     |                      | ◇ Robert Watson  |

## Hours-of-Service Rules Change Again

You read the headline right! They’ve changed again. In December 2014, Congress voted to suspend the 2013 “Restart” restrictions until FMCSA has studied the effects of the two 1am to 5am periods off periods and the once every 168 hour requirements.

Now the suspension of the restrictions isn’t forever. The restrictions are suspended only until FMCSA completes the study or until September 30th, 2015.

So how does all of this affect you?

Well, right now you can restart your 70-hour clock as long as you take 34 consecutive hours off-duty. But be careful! You can’t perform any “On-Duty” function like fueling your truck during that 34 hour restart period. If you do, you won’t have a valid restart and you will then have to manage a 70-hour clock.

Rand-McNally has already made software updates for the 34 hour restart to the EOBR that are in your truck. Again you need to be careful, because the EOBR will not

consider any off-duty time less than 34 hours as a valid “Restart.” Not even if you start driving just a few seconds before the 34 hours Off-Duty period ends.

**The EOBR will only give you credit for a restart if you are off duty for a full 34 hours!**

Do the smart thing and check your EOBR. Make sure that you have a full 34 hours off-duty so you can restart your 70-hour clock.

## How Much Off-Duty Time Between Shifts

**Question: I took off enough time before starting my shift today, but my EOBR says I’m out of hours—Why?**

We hear that question a lot in the Safety Department and we usually find out the driver thought he took enough time off but didn’t.

It’s plain and simple. You have to take off at least 10 consecutive

hours off duty before starting the next day’s shift. That’s not a Triple G Express rule—that’s Federal Law!

Most of the time when the driver complains that the EOBR is saying he is out of hours it is because the driver started a few minutes too early.

**The EOBR isn’t going to make an allowance if you are few minutes or even a few seconds short of the required 10 hours off duty between shifts. Neither is DOT!**

# Drivers without an Accident in 2014

A driver's life is complicated. Getting the load to its destination on time is just part of the job. A driver has to deal with the freight demands, complete the paperwork correctly, and work within a bunch of regulations. Drivers who do all of these things and stay out of an accident are at the top of their game.

Even if it is your first day on the job, you are susceptible to an accident. That's why these drivers deserve a pat on the back.

Ajab, Motaz	Gales, Leonard	Lee, Will	Smith, George
Anderson, Daniel	Gonzalez, Edilberto	Matthews, Kenneth	Smothers, Marcus
Armelin, Michael	Griffin, Vernal	Morris, William	Soule, Gregory
Atkins, Landen	Harness, Rodney	Moses, Monroe	Stegall, Michael
Barber, Robert	Hayes, Keegan	Nash, Charles	Stirgus, Brian
Brossette, John	Haynes, Jerome	Nichols, James	Sullivan, Jacques
Carraby, Damon	Huynh, Tien	Peck, David	Tenner, Robert
Cherry, Danny	Jackson, Troy	Pellebon, Allen	Toussaint, Charles
Coleman, Byron	Johnson, Farrar	Reed, Dennard	Tuckerson, Fred
Constantine, Kevin	Jones, Kendrick	Richardson, Joenather	Ward, Dewayne
Daggs, Louis	Jones, Watt	Robertson, Wilbert	Watson, Robert
Davis, Clarence	Jurado, Saul	Robinson, Jr., Percy	Williams, James
Deemer, Daryl	Koppenaal, Richard	Rogge, Herman	Yancy, Chad
Enamorado Luis	LaSalle, Jr., Charles	Rowan, Jimmy	

## The "Old Timers" Club

So, who's been around the company for a while? Here's a few guys that have 3 years or more of unbroken service at the end of 2014.

<u>Driver's Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Driver's Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Will Lee	05/5/2003	James Nichols	03/28/2011
Charles Nash	09/26/2005	Robert Watson	04/11/2011
Danny Cherry	08/18/2009	Byron Coleman	04/14/2011
Willis Stewart	10/01/2009	Troy Jackson	05/05/2011
Vernal Griffin	04/05/2010	Michael Armelin	06/16/2011
Monroe Moses	04/12/2010	Donald Cobbs	07/18/2011
Edilberto Gonzalez	07/12/2010	Charles Toussaint	07/20/2011
Jay Parker	09/7/2010	William Morris	07/22/2011
Darrel Alexander	11/8/2010	Farrar Johnson	10/04/2011
Watt Jones	01/14/2011	Motaz Ajab	10/07/2011
Clarence Davis	02/07/2011	Michael Stegall	12/02/2011





We're on the Web  
Triplegexpress.com

# Now Hiring!!!!

Southeastern Motor Freight, Inc. is presently hiring company drivers.

## We Offer:

- ◆ Hourly Pay-rate
- ◆ Paid Vacation Time
- ◆ Paid Holidays
- ◆ No Touch Freight
- ◆ Employee Health Benefits

Call 504-731-2829 for more information

## Think About It

### Vince Lombardi

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.

### Babe Ruth

The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.

Please Remember to Buckle Up Before Putting it in Gear

## Just for Giggles

A blonde goes to the doctor with burns on both of her ears and her right hand. "Sit down and tell me how it happened," says the doctor.

"I was ironing my clothes when I received a call. Instead of picking up the phone, I picked up the iron and burned my ear."

"What about the other ear and your hand?" the doctor asked.

She replied, "I tried to call for an ambulance."

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Three vampire bats live in a cave surrounded by three castles. One night, the bats bet on who can drink the most blood.

The first bat comes home with blood dripping off his fangs. He says, "See that castle over there? I drank the blood of three people."

The second bat returns with blood around his mouth. He says, "See that castle over there? I drank the blood of five people."

The third bat comes back covered in blood. He says, "See that castle over there?" The other bats nod. "Well,"

says the third bat, "I didn't."

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Q: What's the difference between the New Orleans Saints and a dollar bill?

A: You can still get four quarters out of a dollar bill.

Q: What do the New Orleans Saints and possums have in common? A: Both play dead at home and get killed on the road!

Q: What's the best way to teach your dog to roll over and play dead? A: Have him watch a couple New Orleans Saints games.