

TRUCK TALK

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Fire Events Added to Accident Register

As a publicly announced policy change, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently added vehicle fires to its list of "Recordable" events that must be placed on your accident register. The agency is interested in collecting data on truck and bus fires for review and potential safety regulatory action. Any vehicle fire that meets the standard threshold of requiring a vehicle tow away, involving bodily injury or fatality, even if no other vehicle was involved must now be recorded. It is important to note that police agencies will also be filing reports of vehicle fires with FMCSA. Those events will be added to your company's accident total in the US DOT

recordkeeping system on both your Safestat and SAFER scores. Because adding these fire events to your scores could negatively affect your rating, FMCSA has also initiated an appeal procedure to review and remove from the evaluation process any fire event on your record that was outside your control. Further details on the accident register requirement can be found at 390.15(b) in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

As a side note, NOW might be a good time to make sure that your Accident Register is up to date and COMPLETE!

Developing A Culture of Positive Attitude!

It's easy in our roles as PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVERS (yes, that was all capitalized on purpose – it's truly a PROFESSION!) to lose sight of the fact that 99% of the factors controlling our destiny are effected by ATTITUDE!

As operators of commercial vehicles we are compelled to accomplish things in the normal course of our workday that would be daunting to most 'lesser beings' – things that range from driving not only our own vehicles but doing a good part of the skilled driving for the motorists around us! If each of us takes the time to mentally 'log' the number of times during our work day where WE are the reason that an incident DOESN'T happen, it will probably be a pretty darned long list!

Let's expand on this a bit – a Positive Mental Attitude can contribute not only to our on the job performance but can also infect those around us. Let's take for an example, a driver of a non commercial vehicle performs a good deed by allowing us a bit of extra 'space' when we are changing lanes – does this put a smile on your face? It should! And, if we in turn do a good deed to

another motorist, surely it will put a smile on that person's face and hopefully they will do the same to someone else! See where we're headed here?

With that said, let's take this a bit further. And let's project positively to EVERYONE around us! Think about it for a minute – do YOU want to be around people with an 'attitude'? Of course not and therefore it's not unreasonable to feel that people don't want to be around and will not respond to a less than positive attitude! Dispatchers enjoy talking with drivers who are positive and project a 'can do' type of attitude – no question about it! Shippers and consignees will certainly be more inclined to want to 'work with' drivers who are positive and project this attitude. And, when things go a little bit easier during the day, we ALL are inclined to treat each other more positively and with more courtesy! We've come full circle and hopefully infected those around us with this positive attitude!

And let's face it – any driver with a positive attitude is bound to be a SAFER driver!