

LRFT newsletter

**Little Rock
Farm Trucking**
www.lrft.net

**519-881-4055
800-447-2660**

**7 Industrial Road, Box 1357
Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0**

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Celebrating 30 Years



Volume 4, Issue 5

Early Winter 2011

Winter is just around the corner ...

by Mark Reuber

This newsletter we're focusing on winter driving. Ya, it's here again!

I think the most important thing with regard to winter driving is ...

T I M E.

You need to give yourself more T I M E.

Those of you who run everything tight can probably see yourself running this calculation: The trip is 420 miles. To determine how many hours it will take you, simply do the math: 420 miles ÷ 60 mph = 7 hours driving... **THROW THAT THEORY OUT THE WINDOW!**

Leave more time for your circle check, drive time, stop/breaks, trailer hook/

drop, negotiating city/high traffic areas...leave more time for everything!

First, we want to provide the same on-time delivery year around to our customers, it's what separates us from mediocre carriers. We don't want our drivers negotiating weather or roads feeling pressured to go faster than the conditions warrant. Allowing plenty of time means drivers are more relaxed and travelling at slower speeds if roads and weather are less than optimum.

Drivers – ensure you are taking winter wear including warm hat, coat, boots and mitts. As well, check your flash-light and batteries...this time of year there's more dark than light.

Winter driving can be a challenge and for professional drivers it is something to test and hone their driving smarts and skills. Keep it safe.

A Little Quiz

Hint #1:

I can hold a grown man but not a cup of water.

Hint #2:

I am bigger than a shoe box, but smaller than a trunk.

Can you guess the answer? Let Theresa know ... only one guess per person, if no one guesses correctly, more clues will continue in the newsletter to follow.

BE VERY SURE IT IS COMING ... LET'S BE READY!

We have been blessed with very nice weather this fall, but that's all going to change!

I have enclosed a pamphlet to help assist you in being prepared for the snowy months to come. The most important of all the tips is to give yourself plenty of room to react.

- 1) Extra distance when following;
 - 2) Keeping wheels away from ditches; and
 - 3) Room to move back and forth when parking
- are all observations that can save time and money.

The following are guide lines for making this winter easier on everyone:

PLUG IN

If the weather is going to be below -5 °C at our yard the trucks need to be plugged in. When you plug them in there should be a snap or spark this indicates that there is a draw and the block heater is working. PLEASE roll up the extension cords when the cord gets unplugged so that they are not caught up in snow removal.

FUEL CONDITIONER

If all we ever ran was Canadian fuel there would not be a need for fuel conditioner until -20°C. However, the further south we go the fewer additives for winter conditions are added to the fuel. When fueling in Canada there should be none added until -20 °C weather is in the forecast. When fueling in the US if the forecast is for below -10 °C fuel conditioner should be added.

PARKING

I have gone over proper parking procedures in the past and will recap again. When coming off damp or snow cover roads ride the **BRAKES** a little to heat the drums up to remove moisture; this does not mean getting the brakes hot but warm enough to dissipate moisture. This keeps the shoes from freezing to the drums!

Let **TIRES** cool off before parking. Doing your paperwork in a clear area to let tires cool off can save you a lot of time trying to get out from under your trailer. Move truck and trailer back and forth a few feet before dropping landing gear to pack any snow under the tire.



Only drop the landing gear to the ground, don't lift the trailer the added weight on the truck will help gain traction when pulling out from trailer and will add weight quicker to the truck that will be hooking up to it next.

Always remember that spinning tires make ice, use a higher gear when fear of spinning may occur this puts less torque to the tires and reduces the ability for the tires to break loose on initial clutch engagement. In no circumstance should you ever give the truck throttle to take off.

CAR PARKING

For easy snow removal, please park so the front bumper of your personal vehicle is in line with the truck's. This way the plow can push away the snow in front and save you some shoveling when it comes time to journey home.

A few simple things to help the next few months more enjoyable. Have a great winter!
John Reuber

LRFT PHONE DIRECTORY 800-447-2660

Dispatch

- Dave, USA Live Haul ext 125
- Daniel, Long & Local Haul ext 124
- Jacquie, Canadian Live Haul ext 207

Administration

- Sandy, Safety ext 133
- Shelley, Accounting ext 123
- Michael M, Admin ext 139
- Ken C, IT Support ext 139

Executive

- Mark, Owner ext 127
- John, Owner ext 137
- Theresa, Controller ext 136

Mechanics Bay

- Jim, Parts Manager ext 128

Sales

- Mark, Owner ext 127

LRFT employs over 60 people who include drivers, mechanics, students and administration to serve our customer's needs.

If you would like to make a contribution please contact Emily at emily.reuber@lrft.net.

We welcome stories, helpful facts, jokes, pictures or whatever else you might have on your heart to share with the Little Rock family.