



# RISK REMINDER

December 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

## Truck Stop Safety

Truck stops are a great reprieve for drivers who have spent long hours on the road. The ability to refuel, unwind, and get some rest in a safe place is unmatched, but not every truck stop is a haven. Just as drivers have to exercise extreme caution on the road, the same must be done for when you're at a truck stop. Below are some tips to stay safe:

- 1. Plan Your Stop in Advance** - Figure out which truck stops are along your route and read reviews for them online. You'll want to find a stop that's well lit and has ample, spaced-out parking.
- 2. Avoid Walking Between Trucks** - When you're walking around a truck stop, make sure you have a clear line of sight from your truck to the stop. You should always know if there's anyone else around you, especially at night. Avoid walking between other trucks so you can keep your eyes on anyone or anything near you.
- 3. Secure Your Truck** - Safeguard your vehicle. Parking accidents and theft can raise many concerns at stops. Here are some ways you can secure your truck:
  - **Avoid Parking at the End of the Row:** You'll want to have plenty of space between your truck and any others at the stop. Parking at the end of a row puts you at risk of getting hit when other trucks turn throughout the lot.
  - **Padlock Your Load:** Keep the items on your truck protected by putting a padlock on the trailer doors. Every time you leave the truck, take a look around it and make sure the lock is still secure. The last thing you want is to finish your route and realize items are missing from the trailer.
  - **Consider Getting a Dash Cam:** A dash cam can be a good investment, especially if you are concerned about your safety on the road. If anything does happen, you'll have video evidence to show.
- 4. Lock Your Doors** - Locking your doors should be step one when you get back into your truck, especially if you plan on going to sleep. Secure your doors further by running the seat belts through the door handle to keep them closed. A ratchet strap can also run from door to door to fortify the cab.
- 5. Cover Your Windows** - Conceal any personal belongings in your cab by covering your truck's windows and windshield. You can use a store-bought cover or a blanket. Anything large enough, that keeps your possessions out of sight, will do the trick.
- 6. Don't Pick Up Hitchhikers** - Truck stops are popular places for hitchhikers to try to pick up rides from drivers. They may lure you into conversation, find out your route, and ask for a ride. While they may seem nice enough, prioritize your safety first by not letting them in your truck.



### TRUE OR FALSE:

1. You never have to lock your doors in truck stops.
2. You should avoid parking at the end of the row of parking spaces.