



RISK REMINDER

March 2026

Name: _____ Company: _____

SEVERE Weather Safety

It is a well-known fact that professional drivers dread the winter months due to the dangers associated with them. Spring and summer months also have a fair share of hazards. The truth is it can be as dangerous or even more in the warm weather months than it is in the winter. With the recent outbreak of tornadoes and severe weather in the Midwest, drivers have to be extremely cautious and alert for severe weather conditions. The best case scenario would be to have alternate routes to avoid possible fast approaching storms, but when that is not possible keep the following Driving Safety Tips in mind:



If Severe Weather Threatens:

- Tune in your radio to either local news stations or weather alert stations to stay informed about approaching storms. Some storms have wind velocities at this time of year that can approach or exceed hurricane strength conditions. A semi-trailer can act as a sail and cause a tip-over before the driver can react.
- Most cell phones have weather apps that can warn you of approaching dangerous weather conditions.
- Stay in touch with your dispatch to check on-line weather conditions.
- Make sure your headlights (low beam) are on and slow down.
- Hopefully you did your pre-trip vehicle inspection and your windshield wipers are in good shape and operating properly.
- Allow extra distance for breaking.
- Avoid flooded highways.
- Pull safely over to the highway shoulder with the flashers on. Avoid trees due to lightning strikes.
- Avoid contact with metal conducting surfaces either inside the vehicle or outside.

If You Spot a Tornado:

Do not drive during tornado conditions. The best action is to avoid potential tornado weather if at all possible. Being late for a delivery or pick-up is much better than never getting there. Alert other drivers by radio to weather conditions that you are witnessing. Never try to out-drive a tornado in a vehicle. These types of storms can change direction very quickly and trucks have quite a bit of surface area for the wind to strike, lift, and throw through the air. Get out of your truck immediately and seek shelter in a nearby building. If there isn't any time to get to shelter or no shelter nearby, get out of the truck and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Always be aware of the potential for flooding while in low-lying area.

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. True or False – If you spot a tornado, getting out of your truck to take a picture is the safest option. _____
2. True or False – You should avoid contact with metal conducting surfaces inside or outside the vehicle. _____