

FORTREPORT

The Quarterly Newsletter of Fort Transfer

Safety Message by Brian Freeman

As I am sure, most of you are aware at this point we have recently began doing the Monthly “Driver Call” in a video format. I hope that this has been received as a positive change and made the discussion more entertaining and productive. One side benefit that I have already noticed is in increased dialog between many of you, our drivers, and myself. I am not sure why this is, because I believe most everyone knew who I am and what I look like before this change occurred, but nevertheless, I’ll take it!

I have recently had several of our drivers approach me with safety topics that are important and need to be discussed. I will probably dig deeper into some of these in future videos, but I think it is important to mention a few of them here. To those of you (you know who you are) that have mentioned these issues, THANK YOU!

1. Parking on an exit ramp – never a good idea. I know that the lack of availability of truck parking has become a critical issue throughout the country, but we have to find a better solution than an exit ramp. The driver that pointed this out to me as a concern shared a newspaper article of a motorist fatality that involved an illegally parked truck on an exit ramp that occurred recently. Not one of our trucks, but it serves as a good reminder of the dangers.
2. Air lines hanging on the catwalk – this will get you a DOT violation quick, fast, and in a hurry! More importantly, it puts you at risk. These lines begin chafing on the rough surface of the catwalk creating air leaks and potential for total failure. You do not want your tractor protection valve activating while you are traveling at interstate speeds!
3. Pre-trip inspections – particularly paying attention to wheel seals and lugs. More on that later.

Please let me know if you have other safety topics that you think need to be addressed.

Thank you all for what you do every day! Be Safe!

Health and Wellness: Feeling Fatigue?

Late afternoons most people’s energy starts to fade when most grab a cup of coffee or a candy snack to help kick their energy levels back up. Unfortunately, caffeine and sugary snacks only offer a short term burst and then lead to an energy “crash”. The best choice is energizing foods, such as lean protein, high fiber, whole grain or complex carbs. Some examples would be: nut butters, apples, raw almonds, salmon, bananas, Greek yogurt, oatmeal, and popcorn. Try these without adding sugar and as simply made as possible to help maintaining energy throughout your day.

Stay healthy!



Business Update by Brad Kahler

As 2019 unfolds, we're seeing a less "robust" year than 2018. Last year was a record year on many fronts and, we're preparing for a more normal year. One thing we all know is that our industry is challenging to plan for as it is very cyclical and unpredictable.

Overdrive magazine said "We have good years and we have tough years. 2019 is not going to be a tough year, but it's not going to be as good as 2018."

We are witnessing that, but are staying ahead on business opportunities. In the last month alone, we've successfully secured 4 new customer opportunities - two with Evonik, Nalco, and Kemira. We also have plans to add to our Central Dispatch team to assist you with additional reloads.

We're excited about how the next few months look as they are going to be extremely busy for us. Thank you for the continued efforts that are helping us land these new opportunities.

Driver of the Month January 2019 John Peters

Residence: Bartonville, IL
Drives: #355

John Peters has been with Fort for 2 ½ years. He has been working on a dedicated customer account that requires more hands-on than our other customers. He has kept the same trailer throughout and takes very good care of his equipment. There have not been any reportable incidents while doing this campaign. He takes care of the customers and is always on time. He also communicates very well to dispatch on his progress or if he has any issues.



Driver of the Month February 2019 Charles Bennett

Residence: Kentwood, LA
Drives: #1910



Chuck has taken personal ownership of protecting our reputation as the White Glove Carrier, especially as it relates to our Pure MDI business with BASF. He monitors all trailers regularly to make sure there are no stains from residual product and ensures the insulated crash box doors are being handled properly and are in good working order. He holds other drivers accountable when he notices exceptions and helps to train and mentor newer drivers with less experience handling this product.

Chuck has rescued many of these critical shipments when other tractors have gone down and is always willing to do this, no matter how many days of personal layover may result. He takes great pride in error free service and always thinks "Fort" and not "Chuck". Chuck provides a great, consistent example of being passionate and working as a team.



WELCOME TO FORT!

Casey Lehman joined the Fort team in March as our Director of Recruiting and Retention! He comes to us with degrees in Business Management and Human Resources and has worked in recruiting drivers for several years. Welcome Casey!



We are excited to announce that we are ready to relaunch our Bible/ Faith Conversation using the FREE resource “Our Daily Bread”

Every Friday at 9am

Resource:

Our daily bread devotional Paper or app version all synchronized so ANYONE can call in

Link to download the app is here:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.rbc.odb>

Conversation:

We will discuss any of the previous 6 days of devotional readings in the previous 6 days of (ODB)

There will be an intentional time of “icebreaker” Question of the day or a would you rather, etc. followed by open discussion.



Conference Call Details:

Call: 877-291-2213

Access Code: 72990



Have a volunteer opportunity you would like to share?
Let us know at forthope@forttransfer.com!



April

2 JIM DODSON
6 RAY FRASURE
6 HAL HARPER
7 WILLIAM JULIUS
10 ROBERT EMFINGER
13 JAMES HICKLE
13 BRIAN TAYLOR
18 DANNY ROUSSELL
20 NOEL DEOCOS
21 KENNETH LOTT II
24 JON ROBERTS
27 RICHARD AMES
27 SHAWN BROWN
29 MAURICE FRANK
29 MARK MOSCHIANO
29 RYLEY THOMAS
30 JARVIS KNIGHTEN

May

2 DARRELL BRADFORD
2 SHERRY RIDGEDELL
2 BRENT MAULLER
3 DAVID BURRIS
3 RODERICK MARTIN
3 ANTONIO BRADFORD
4 GERALD CONLEY
7 MARKEISE BROOKS
8 ISAAC NABORS
16 CURTIS HOWARD
16 JASON ALLEN
23 JACK DAGG
25 DENNIS MELVIN
26 KENNETH FORNOFF
28 REGINALD SANDERS

June

1 HERMAN LOFTON JR
4 TERRY PURTELL
6 ROBERT BAILEY
6 TRAVIS COOPER
8 ANTHONY SMITH
9 CHRISTINE LANGLOIS
9 DWRIGHT MARTIN
10 DENNIS LIKINS
12 JESSIE OWENS
15 TYLER SCHOEDEL
16 CHRIS GAUTREAU
16 MICHAEL ANDERSON
17 ZULTON HENDERSON
19 WILLIAM TURNBO
22 JOSEPH LACOUR
22 CASEY LEHMAN
25 WILLIAM COLLINS
30 CHERYL TRACEY



1 Year

DWRIGHT MARTIN
MICHAEL BOYLAN
DAVID MASKELL
MELISSA HOYLE
SCOTT SHAFFER
JAMES RIOUX
RICHARD MAY
TONIO COBBS
DENNIS JOHNSON SR
JASBERG VERONICA
MARK MOSCHIANO
GERALD CONLEY
MARKEISE BROOKS
JEAN FAGET
RAY FRASURE
ROBERT ROWE

2 Years

SAMUEL WALTERS
CHRISTOPHER DEVOE
BRIAN TAYLOR
BILLY GERARD
ERIC HADNOT
JOSEPH RAY ASHTON JR.
TIMOTHY MCCOY
SHAWN BROWN
JESSIE DIXON JR
MICHAEL BELL
MOHAMMAD KARIMIPOUR
DAVID FINCK

5 Years

JOHN WORLEY
MATTHEW ALVIS
RICHARD AMES
CHARLES BENNETT

3 Years

GARY TISDALE
EDGAR LOPEZ
MICHAEL GILCHRIST
PLACID NWOKORIE
TERRILL CLARK
KENNETH MCCARVER
CHRIS HARRIS
JOHN PETERS JR

6 Years

RICK HUDSON
LOU RILEY
DENNIS LIKINS
DAVID MICHAEL ADAMS

7 Years

KEENA SKAGGS
MARK NEEDHAM

4 Years

JON ROBERTS
CARL HARRELL

9 Years

JACK DAGG

15 Years

SHERRY RIDGEDELL

17 Years

ROBERT HOOD

