

# SAFE PARKING WHILE ON THE ROAD



**INSURANCE  
GROUP**  
*Loss Control*

## SAFE PARKING WHILE ON THE ROAD

Taking into account factors such as low travel speeds, percentage of non-moving vehicles, adequate lighting, and marked parking spaces; truck parking facilities such as truck stops and rest areas should be safe zones for the hard working commercial drivers that keep this country moving; however a large percentage of truck accidents and millions of dollars per year in losses occur at truck stops and other truck parking locations.

In the next few slides, we will discuss and share best practices and tips that can help you to decrease or eliminate these losses.

## SAFE PARKING WHILE ON THE ROAD

Did you know that in the past fifty years the size of a standard dry van trailer has increased by thirteen feet in length and six inches in width?



Along with the continued increase in congestion at truck parking locations, many facilities you may park at were not designed for tractor trailer combinations of this size, potentially leading to a rise in accidents and severity of equipment damage.

## SAFE PARKING BEST PRACTICES AND TIPS

- 1) Pre-plan your day and your route to park at a known location with adequate room and lighting. If possible, stop early for the night to secure a safe parking location.
- 2) Safety over convenience. The front of parking lots have more congestion and more continued thru traffic. Park at the rear of the lot where there is more space.
- 3) The best parking options at any location to avoid accidents are pull through parking spaces, followed by spaces that you have room to back into. Avoid parking spaces that will force you to back out when leaving.

## SAFE PARKING BEST PRACTICES AND TIPS

- 4) Park your tractor and trailer as straight as possible in assigned spaces. This limits the exposure you have when other drivers are pulling or backing in beside you.
- 5) Park next to other trucks that appear to be parked for the night and won't be moving (window shades drawn, cab lights out, etc..).
- 6) Park beside a light pole on one side of your truck, if space is available. This will lower the chances of getting struck by another truck on that side of your vehicle.

## SAFE PARKING BEST PRACTICES AND TIPS

- 7) Dash cameras are a great investment to protect you and your equipment. Hit and run collisions are common at truck parking locations. These cameras may capture valuable footage while you are away from your truck or sleeping.
  
- 8) Use your four-way flashing lights when pulling through a crowded parking lot or backing up. Tiredness and fatigue are common in drivers at truck stops. Four-way lights increase the chance of someone seeing you.

## SAFE PARKING BEST PRACTICES AND TIPS

- 9) Record who is parked beside you, especially if the other truck appears to be too close, is over the parking stripe, or is angled poorly. Company name, DOT number, unit number, and license plate are all good information to record in these instances.
- 10) G.O.A.L.- Get Out And Look. Most professional drivers have heard this acronym before; however it continues to remain the best way to avoid preventable backing accidents. All trucks have blind spots, especially when backing. Don't just think you're clear, know you're clear. Get Out And Look.

For questions and suggestions, please  
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