



Safety Meeting for October 2026

Topic: Cell Phone Distractions and Trucking Accidents

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) bans commercial drivers from texting or using handheld devices while operating a commercial vehicle. Drivers who fail to obey can face federal fines up to \$2,750.00 per offense and potential suspension of the CDL for repeated violations. According to research, using a cell phone in the trucking industry increases the risk of accidents fourfold. Another study found that just having a cell phone in a truck increased the risk of being involved in an accident by **60 percent**.

Truck drivers are cautioned not to drive while distracted, but driver distractions are causing many fatal accidents. The truth is that there are many distractions while driving—we are probably all distracted at some point when we really should be focusing on driving. But it is vital that truck drivers pay attention to the road to avoid causing an accident. The following accident outlines the dangers of cell phone usage.

Recently, a 17-year-old young girl was killed when a tractor-trailer crashed into the side of her school bus. Although investigators do not believe speed was a factor in the accident, they say the driver of the tractor-trailer was talking on the cell phone and did not see that the bus in front of him had stopped. The truck crashed into the bus without the driver ever hitting the brakes. Eight other students and the driver were critically injured.

The truck driver had negligent homicide charges and a civil lawsuit filed against him. The driver now lives with the memory of causing an accident resulting in the loss of life.

Truck drivers are banned from using hand-held devices in all fifty states. However, it is easy to see that talking on a cell phone or, worse yet, sending text messages can be a major distraction while driving a tractor-trailer.

Driver inattention is a growing concern for trucking safety. Controlling a tractor-trailer requires full attention to the truck and the road ahead. A tractor-trailer traveling requires a stopping distance of about 419 feet. Distracted drivers using a cell phone while driving increase the risk of a crash by 4 to 8 times. Dialing or reaching for a device can triple or quadruple the chances of an accident while you are looking away from the road.

Distracted drivers take even longer to prevent a collision. Unfortunately, it only takes one accident to end a life. Drivers involved in accidents may have easily learned a lesson to pay attention while driving. Those gone forever are not getting a second chance. Family members are left dealing with grief from an accident that could have been prevented.



Safety Meeting Agenda

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Open Meeting & Present safety topic: Cell phone Distractions and Trucking Accidents

Employee Sign-In:

[illegible]

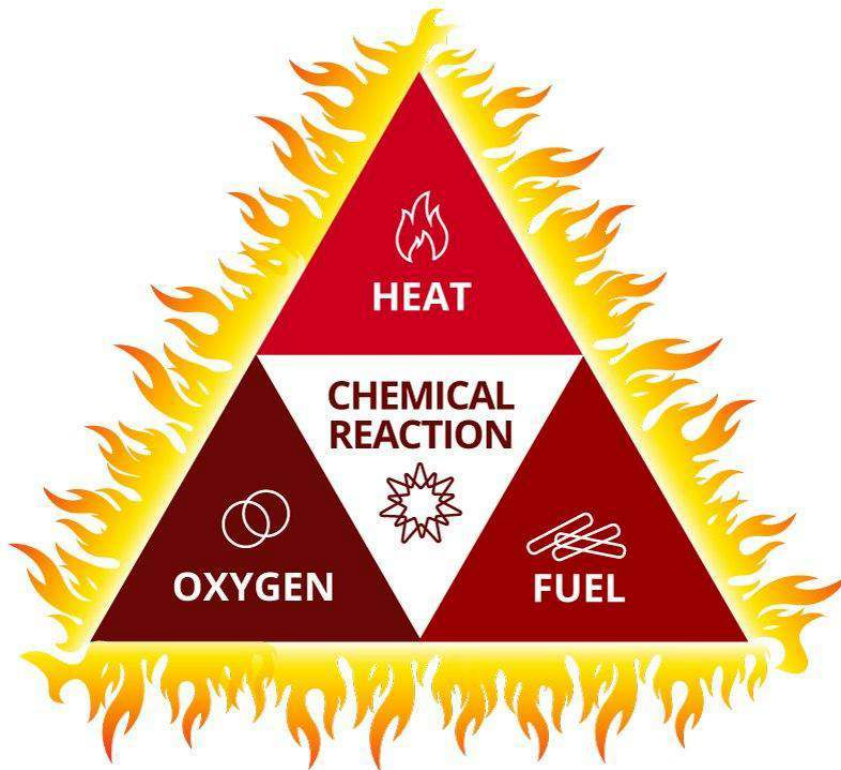


MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____

Safety Meeting for November 2026:

Topic: Fire Prevention on the Jobsite:

Fires can occur in many different places in life. However, a fire requires the following: oxygen, fuel, heat, and a chain reaction to sustain itself. If we take away any of the four, the fire will dissipate.



FIRE TETRAHEDRON

Firefighters use water and foam when they fight fires. Water removes heat, and foam will smother the fuel, depriving it of oxygen and causing the fire to go out. In the field, we do not have a fire truck readily available. Each piece of equipment and every truck should be equipped with an ABC extinguisher. These extinguishers come in several different sizes. The most common sizes are 2.5 pounds or 5 pounds. Compared with the larger extinguishers, they are very small. The ABC extinguishers contain dry powder that deprives the fire of oxygen. If we can catch a fire in the very early stages, these extinguishers will work effectively. However, if the fire has become too intense, one will be unable to extinguish it. Since oxygen is crucial to the fire, we do not want to open the engine compartments and allow it to breathe. Most manufacturers now use small holes outlined in red on engine compartment doors. This allows an access point for the extinguisher nozzle to be inserted. If your equipment does not have this option, we just need to partially open the door. Remember, we are not properly equipped to “fight fires”; we are just attempting to stop the spread. At any point the fire becomes more than you



can handle, 911 needs to be activated. Other types of extinguishers you might see are Cold Fire, Co2, and a water can. Cold Fire is designed for fires A and B, such as trash, wood, paper, liquids, and gases. Do not use this for electrical fires, as it is water-based. CO2 extinguishers are utilized for flammable liquids or electrical fires.

Fire Extinguisher Usage:

Any time you need to deploy a fire extinguisher, remember the P.A.S.S method. Pull the pin, aim the hose, squeeze the handles, and sweep left to right at the base of the fire.



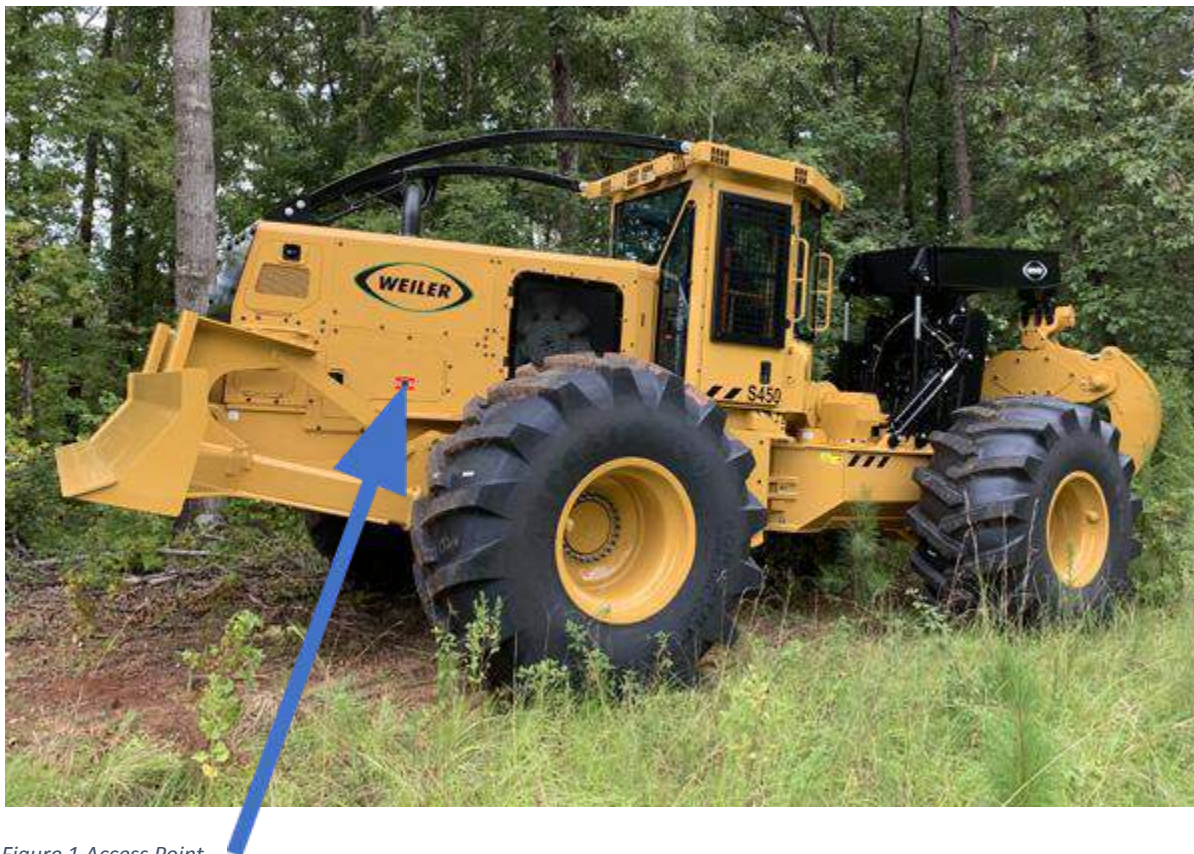


Figure 1 Access Point

Since loggers typically work in remote locations, we need to remember a few things to include an access point for machinery. When a fire occurs, or an injury occurs, one should call 911 immediately. Most fire departments in our area are volunteers, and it may take a little longer for help to arrive. We can always disregard them if we get the situation under control. Always make sure that you know where you are. Have a 911 address or GPS coordinate for your location. Be aware that sometimes a GPS location may not bring help in on the correct road. Many GPS systems take you in through the woods if you are a good distance off the road. If available, send someone to the end of the road to lead your help into the right area. The last thing is: how close is the fire to your deck? Are we able to get a truck to the fire? Do we need a dozer? Do we need an off-road capable fire truck? Make sure you have these answers ready for the 911 dispatcher. This will ensure that the fire departments arrive with the proper equipment.



Safety Meeting for December 2026

Topic: Winter Weather Driving

Winter weather contributes to many driver fatalities every year. One of the leading causes of death during the winter months is from trucking, automobile, or other transportation accidents. Many accidents could be avoided if drivers took time to learn and practice a few tips for driving safely during snowy and icy conditions.

Truckers of vehicles with air brakes must take care to protect their air supply in freezing weather. Brake line freeze can be annoying and dangerous. Many newer trucks are equipped with synthetic air lines, so the old solution of melting the ice with a fuse or torch is no longer quick. If the vehicle is not equipped with an air dryer or other means of automatically expelling water and other contaminants from the air tanks, the driver must manually drain the air tanks every day.

Vehicle lighting systems become especially important during the winter months. Nights are longer, and visibility is often reduced by bad weather. Electrical systems are winter-sensitive. Approximately 80 percent of all light bulb failures are due to environmental reasons. Drivers **must inspect** their lights more often during the winter and clean them when necessary so they can see and be seen by other highway users.

Perhaps the deadliest danger of all is "**black ice**." Black ice is ice that forms on roadways, usually due to snow melting and refreezing. Since it is almost invisible, drivers fail to recognize black ice conditions and may drive at normal speeds-often resulting in very serious accidents. Always be alert to the possibility of black ice when temperatures are near or below freezing. Pavement that looks dry but appears darker in color and dull-looking should alert you to the presence of black ice.

You can take several precautions to stay safe when driving in winter weather. **Speed** is a major factor in winter accidents, and many crashes occur simply because drivers are traveling too fast for the conditions. Speed limits are designed to reduce the risk of accidents, but in icy, rainy, foggy, or snowy weather, the posted limit may still be too fast. The slower you drive, the less distance you need to stop. Adjusting your speed for both the posted limit and road conditions is one of the best ways to reduce your risk of a winter accident.

Some other tips for driving safely in winter weather:

- ☐ Always wear your seatbelt.
- ☐ Failing to **allow enough time to stop** is a major cause of winter driving accidents.
- ☐ Driving at a **slower speed**, anticipating stops at traffic lights and intersections.
- ☐ Applying the **brakes** sooner than normal will help ensure accident-free stops.
- ☐ When braking, **apply the brakes carefully with short, rapid strokes**.
- ☐ Always turn on your **headlights** during adverse weather conditions. It is important to see and be seen.
- ☐ Use **extra caution** when passing over bridges as they freeze before the road freezes.



- ❑ **Prepare your vehicle:** check fluid levels, tire pressure, lights, and the battery.
- ❑ Remember that driving in winter weather conditions can cause physical and mental fatigue and reduce reaction time. Don't drive if you are on medication that causes drowsiness.
- ❑ **Emergency kit:** clothing, blankets, traction material such as sand or kitty litter, tire chains, a small shovel, a first aid kit, a flashlight, jumper cables, and a bright cloth to use as a flag.

