

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Abby Greer February 7, 2025

The "Safety Spotlight" feature of The Green Light shines the spotlight on safety professionals to gain insight into their background, and their thoughts and ideas on safety in our industry.

Meet Mattie Beck Bruner, Safety Director for Beck Trucking in Dobson, North Carolina. Mattie (literally) grew up with a love of big trucks and a dream of helping her father run the family business. And that's exactly what she did...

How did you get started in Safety? What advice do you wish you had received early in your career in Safety that you would pass on to someone just getting started?

My Dad started Beck Trucking when I was three years old. He started with just one truck, driving himself. We now we have 30 trucks total. I grew up surrounded by big trucks and loved my dad's

blue Peterbilt. I spent most days after school sitting in the office observing and admiring. I couldn't wait to "grow up" and work alongside him. So, that's exactly what I did. I began working in dispatch and learning daily operations. We then found that the Safety aspect of our business needed more attention. Being in this role full-time has allowed me to help the company grow and expand our knowledge of the regulations to ensure we are in compliance and minimize violations.



What do you view as the main duties of a Safety Director?

Staying up to date with the FMCSA and DOT Regulations to ensure your company is in compliance is one of the most important. Then, train and manage the drivers to make sure they stay within those guidelines. Also, I manage insurance policies and claims to get the best coverage in the event we do have an accident.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT continued

What has been the most challenging task in your role/career as a Safety Director?

As a young woman and the owner's daughter, gaining the respect of others has been challenging. I had to prove I was fit for the job and knew what I was doing, but I was determined. I educated myself with the many resources available. I have had many meetings with Insurance Agents and Safety personnel. We joined the NCTA, and I completed the Mini MBA class, which was extremely informative. Sometimes it is still difficult, but I am thankful to have a team that supports me!

What do you find most effective in getting existing and new truck drivers to buy in to safety?

I find that explaining the end goal is extremely effective. If everyone understands the motives and the reason why, it's easier for them to be on board. Safety benefits everyone but only if you understand it.

Why is safety important to you and how do you (or would you) improve your company's safety culture?

Safety must be at the core, or your business will simply crumble. To satisfy your customers, you have to deliver their products safely. If your customers aren't happy, you don't make money. You also must keep your employees safe while performing their jobs. We purchase new equipment and keep it well-maintained. Our Shop Technicians work diligently to ensure this. We keep our shop organized and clean to provide a safe place for our Techs to work.

If you could give any advice or message to the general public about the trucking industry, what would it be?

Truck drivers sacrifice time away from family and home to move America. There wouldn't be products on the shelves in any stores if it wasn't for the men and women who are willing to pull the load. With that in mind, make room on the highways and give truckers the respect they deserve for the service they provide to our country.

What would be your "safety quote" or "safety message" that you want to share?

Everyone must do their part in being safe to keep the wheels rolling!

