



**Alabama Trucking Association
Workers Compensation Fund**

alliance

An OSHA Cooperative Program

A Newsletter For Our Members Where Safety Is Our Primary Concern!

**January
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WINTER DRIVING AND SLIPS/TRIPS/FALLS



It is January 2017 and we are in the slap middle of winter out there in the truck driving world. For the last couple of weeks we have noticed an increase in the number of injuries related to ice and snow where a driver falls trying to get in or get out of their trucks or an accident caused by road conditions.

Winters in Alabama, unless you are in the northern part of the state, are generally mild and the ice and snow hazard is limited. The problem arises when you drive from Alabama to an area of the country that ice and snow becomes a hazard. You might leave Alabama and it's raining and the further north you go, it turns to ice and snow.

Here are a few safety tips for winter driving and hazards that will help prevent injuries.

- Plan ahead for your trip. Check the weather and road conditions.
- Inspect your truck and ensure it's ready for anticipated conditions.
- Wear your seat belt and put up your safety netting in your sleeper berth when occupied.
- Drive defensively, allow for road conditions and increase following distance.
- Drop your speed – SLOW IT DOWN and allow for more stopping distance. It takes longer to stop on a slippery road. Look ahead and keep plenty of distance between you and other vehicles (at least four seconds).
- Watch for black ice _ Don't be fooled, black ice is invisible. Shaded areas, bridges and overpasses freeze sooner than other areas, even in the sunshine.
- Wear proper winter clothing, especially footwear that provides extra grip.
- Avoid footwear that has smooth or slick soles.
- Be cautious when entering or exiting your truck. Remember the step will freeze and presents a slip hazard.
- Be careful in truck stops or rest areas. Watch out for black ice that might cause a fall. Do not walk with your hands in your pocket.
- Stand down if weather conditions along your route are predicted to cause road closures that could leave you stranded.
- Follow company safety policies and safe work procedures _ Check ground conditions before exiting cab and always use three-points of contact while entering and exiting cabs Remember to "shuffle" your feet if you have to walk on frozen ground and use hand-rails or other aids where provided. Do not get on top of a flatbed trailer if it has ice on it and check ladders to ensure there is no ice accumulation. Help out other drivers by reporting hazards such as poor weather, vehicle, or road conditions to your supervisor/driver manager.

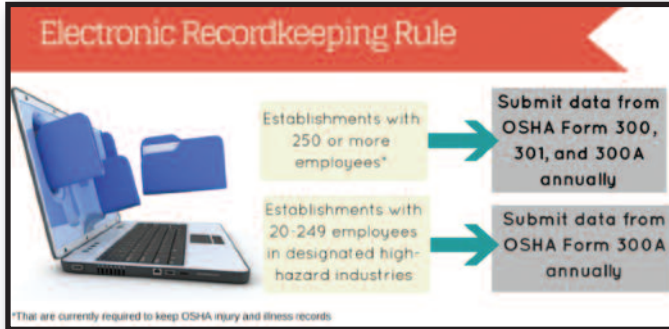


These are just a few safety tips that can help prevent an accident or injury. Take time to prepare for your trip in winter conditions. Stay in regular contact with your driver manager and check the weather along your route to be prepared to survive if conditions strand you along the highway.



Final Rule to Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued its final rule to expand electronic recordkeeping requirements for workplace injuries and illnesses and make such records publicly available.



The new rule, effective Jan. 1, 2017, requires certain employers to electronically submit injury and illness data that they are already required to record on their onsite OSHA Injury and Illness forms. Establishments with 250 or more employees in industries covered by the recordkeeping regulation — as well as those with 20 to 249 employees in high-risk industries such as agriculture, forestry, construction and manufacturing — must submit information on their 2016 injuries and illnesses by July 1, 2017, and their 2017 information by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019, the information must be submitted by March 2.

OSHA said analysis of the information will enable the agency to use its enforcement and compliance assistance resources more efficiently and will make some of the data publicly available on the OSHA website. “Since high injury rates are a sign of poor management, no employer wants to

be seen publicly as operating a dangerous workplace,” David Michaels, assistant secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, said in a statement. “Our new reporting requirements will ‘nudge’ employers to prevent worker injuries and illnesses to demonstrate to investors, job seekers, customers and the public that they operate safe and well-managed facilities. Access to injury data will also help OSHA better target our compliance assistance and enforcement resources at establishments where workers are at greatest risk, and enable ‘big data’ researchers to apply their skills to making workplaces safer.”

Under the new rule, all establishments with 250 or more employees in industries covered by the recordkeeping regulation must electronically submit to OSHA injury and illness information from OSHA Forms 300, 300A, and 301. Establishments with 20-249 employees in certain industries* must electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300A only.

Please take a moment to review the attached OSHA Fact Sheet web link - <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3862.pdf> for further details.



WE ARE GROWING AGAIN AT THE ATA FUND!



It is with great pleasure that we announce that **Candy Woodruff** has joined our team effective today. Candy will join our Loss Control Team as a Loss Control Consultant. Candy comes to the ATA Workers’ Compensation Fund with over 27 years of trucking and transportation experience. She holds her Certified Director of Safety Certification (CDS) thru NATMI. Candy’s career began in 1988 working for Overnite Transportation as their OS&D clerk where she handled claims. In 1999, she worked for Whatley Contract Carriers and in 2004 for Eagle Motor Freight as their Director of Safety. In 2015, Candy was appointed the position of Loss Control Consultant for Crum & Forster where she specialized in providing loss control services to the trucking and transportation industry.

Candy and her three children enjoy camping, boating, and spending family time together. Please welcome Candy as she starts a new journey in insurance with the ATA Fund.