

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Abby Greer November 12, 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 Wanda Brooks, CDS – Compliance Manager at RE Garrison Trucking in Cullman, Alabama. Her career in trucking began in 1994, but has had a love of trucking her entire life. Her uncle and stepdad were truckers and, whenever the opportunity arose, she would play in their trucks and pretend she was a trucker. Trucking is in her blood...

How did you get started in Safety?

I started out in safety 1994 at ADF in Forest, MS, as the assistant plant manager. I was the first person that the plant manager hired and helped build the plant ground up.



I literally started working out of a pickup truck building the policies and procedures book and oversaw the monthly employee safety meeting that all employees had to attend. I trained employees on bloodborne pathogens, CPR, onboarded all employees for safety while on the operations floor to use PPE, wearing safety glasses, gloves, ear plugs, hard hats and steel toe shoes.

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

A director is setting expectations for the team, to create team building opportunities, support the culture, and create leadership training opportunities for the team.

Why is safety important to you?

The lives of our drivers and the safety of the motoring public is a top priority.

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

Having all departments to realize everything starts and ends with safety. No matter what industry you are working in. There are only two jobs in trucking, driving the truck or supporting the person driving the truck.

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How do you promote your company's safety culture? How do you get employees to "buy in" or get involved?

At RE Garrison, we set the expectation from the "Crown driver program." When a driver does the whole driving job, 7 KPI's are easily met and leave no space for the driver not to capitalize on the opportunity to return as good or better than they left and deliver the freight for a profit and become a "Crown Driver."

What advice do you wish you had received early in your safety career? What advice would you give to someone who is starting out in their safety role?

How important Safety is to the profitability of the business, rates change, roads change, people change. But safety is safety bottom line. Either you prioritize care about the driver's safety or you're in the wrong department. My best advice is to build a safety culture by building relationships.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a Trucker? What would be your safety quote or message?

Advice I would give a Trucker, you know your body better than anyone else or any technology device, don't be distracted but focus on your surroundings. At the end of the day lives matter!

Any other information you would like to provide?

I have written 7 books now my last one is "I want to be a Trucker." The Lord laid this one on my heart last November leaving Women in Trucking. All my books are God inspired. I enjoyed writing this one because it is so important to this generation to understand how important a driver is. Without truck drivers moving freight the world would be totally in chaos. And all we see now days is billboards and commercials to sue that big old bad trucking industry to the point a lot of them are going out of business. Trucking is a great career, and there are many avenues for truckers. A mechanic is a trucker, the owner is a trucker, dispatcher is a trucker, and a safety person is a trucker.



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