



ELECTRONIC LOG TIPS

With the new Electronic Log Device (ELD) mandate, electronic logs are now a part of being a professional truck driver. It's a change that affects not only drivers but operations and dispatch. The following tips will help increase dispatch efficiency and maximize the driver's hours.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

While proper trip planning has always been important, it's even more important while driving with ELD's. Before you accept a load, you should plan out all of the details of your trip including:

- Know where you will fuel.
- Know where you will take your breaks.
- Plan your route and have the correct directions to each location you will be going to.
- Leave yourself some cushion room in case of a road closure, unexpected traffic, a weather event, etc.

If you can make your trip safely, but you don't have a comfortable cushion time, inform your dispatcher about the situation before taking the load.

CHECK THE WEATHER

Plan ahead for any significant weather you may encounter. Don't let a snowstorm or any other weather even catch you off guard. Plan for it early to reduce the changes of any surprises later.

KEEP DISPATCH INFORMED

Many unexpected delays happen in trucking. Make sure dispatch is aware of any issues, or potential issues, well ahead of time. If you keep them informed, it won't be a shocking surprise when you tell them that the trip can no longer be made on time.

CALL AHEAD

If you're picking up or delivering a load and have time to spare, call ahead and see if you can arrive early. This is a good way to ensure you complete the load quickly and become available for the next one.

ALWAYS USE OVERNIGHT PARKING

While using ELD's, overnight parking at customer facilities are *huge* time savers. Again, call ahead and find out if you can park on their property until your pick up/delivery time. Even if they do not allow overnight parking, they may be able to tell you somewhere else close by to park, such as a side street or vacant parking lot. They will help ensure that you remain off duty while your truck is being unloaded/loaded. Over time, this will affect the number of miles you run in a very big way.



John MacFarlane
... is the lucky winner of the gift certificate this month for turning in his signed newsletter.



I have read and understand the above information regarding "ELECTRONIC LOG TIPS".

Signature

Date

