

THE COMMUNIQUE

SMS THE 7 BASICS

1) The **Unsafe Driving BASIC** prioritizes interventions for repeated unsafe behaviors such as:

- ◆ Texting
- ◆ Speeding
- ◆ Using a hand-held cell phone
- ◆ Reckless driving
- ◆ Improper lane change
- ◆ Inattention



2) **Crash Indicator BASIC**
Understand crash patterns to help identify and address safety problems.

State-reported crashes from the last two years are collected in this BASIC to help identify patterns of high crash involvement and the behavior or set of behaviors that contributed to the crash. All crashes involving commercial motor vehicles, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, are reportable if they result in a fatality or injury, or require a vehicle to be transported from the crash scene, regardless of the carrier's or driver's role in the crash.

The Crash Indicator BASIC is not public. It is only available to a motor carrier that is logged into their own safety profile, or enforcement personnel.

3) **Hours-of-Service (HOS) Compliance BASIC**
Be sure you know the HOS regulations and when it's time for a break. Do not drive fatigued.

The HOS regulations make roads safer by requiring rest for all large truck and bus drivers to ensure that they are alert, awake, and able to respond quickly.



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4) **Vehicle Maintenance BASIC**



Keep your vehicle properly maintained to ensure your safety and the safety of others traveling on the road.

Conduct pre- and post-trip inspections, record vehicle defects, and repair them prior to operating the vehicle.

5) **Controlled Substances/Alcohol BASIC**
Do not misuse drugs or alcohol while driving. It is dangerous and illegal.

Alcohol, illegal drugs, and over-the-counter and prescription medication misuse impair driving abilities and endanger your safety and the safety of those on the road with you. Having containers of alcoholic beverages in your cab, whether open or not, is a violation.

6) **Hazardous Materials (HM) Compliance BASIC**
Adhere to the special requirements for transporting HM to help make America's roads safer for everyone.

This includes regulations that require special attention, from how to properly package, mark, label, placard, and load HM to understanding regulations for tank specification testing, loading/unloading, attendance, and leakage.

The HM Compliance BASIC is not public. It is only available to a motor carrier that is logged into their own safety profile, or enforcement personnel.

7) **Driver Fitness Basic**

Motor carriers are responsible for making sure driver qualification files are complete and current. Required files for each and every driver include valid commercial drivers' licenses (CDLs), medical certificates, State driving records, annual reviews of driving records, and employment applications.