

# BETWEEN THE LINES

KELLY ANDERSON GROUP - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## Truck Drivers During the Holidays

During the holidays, professional truck drivers are still on the road, doing what they can to deliver packages, goods and various materials to their destinations on time. Some get to go home, others do not.

For truck drivers wanting to make it home for Thanksgiving or Christmas Day, they should check with their companies' time-off policies and put in a request as soon as possible, as suggested by *Cloud Trucks'* blog. However, if a driver cannot make it back in time for the smell of Thanksgiving turkey and Christmas ham, they should know that there are *many* options along the road for a hot holiday meal. Usually, major restaurant chains, such as Cracker Barrel, Boston Market and Denny's, provide these meals at or around truck stop locations. If possible, it might be good to call ahead just in case of wait times.

Truck drivers who are away from home should also be encouraged to spend their holiday with fellow truckers. Whether meeting up for a Thanksgiving dinner or handing out gifts, this interaction strengthens the community of drivers that already exists while also lifting spirits.

Despite the efforts to have company during Thanksgiving and Christmas, it, unfortunately, does not always fill the feeling of missing family. Thankfully, modern technology allows today's society to connect with loved ones from across the country and globe, as *Fleet Owner* and *RoadPro Family of Brands* reminded. When not driving on the road, truckers should strive to utilize their devices to video chat or call their families. Tom Kyrk, a RoadPro Pro Driver, says "In 12 years of trucking, I have only been home for Christmas Day once. I try to take part in the family activities of presents etc. either with a phone call where I listen in or a video session... so I can see what is going on." This type of connection, no matter how long it may last, boosts morale more than one may realize.

It might be a bitter time for some truck drivers to be away during the holidays, but with a supportive family and rallying trucking community, hope on the road can be found.



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## "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving"

"Blackout Wednesday" or "Drinksgiving" is the day before Thanksgiving when people tend to be encouraged to drink their hearts away until they black out. However, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) seeks to reverse this day's campaign and bring awareness to drinking-impaired driving.

No matter the state, there's a United States law that prohibits driving under the influence of alcohol. In most states, the blood alcohol content (BAC) limit is .08% for drivers as a whole. The only exception for this is Utah, where their BAC limit is .05%. However, for truck drivers specifically, the limit is .04%. The Florida Highways Safety and Motor Vehicles (FHSMV) points out the signs of an alcohol-impaired driver: slow reaction time, short-term memory limitations, reduced hand-eye coordination, weakened concentration, and difficulty perceiving distance and time. Even one of these symptoms can be dangerous for any driver.

All states legally also require citizens to be 21 years of age or older, with some location exceptions. This number has become significant as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that states saw a 16% decrease in vehicle-related crashes when they raised their age median to 21. These statistics strengthen the need to be careful not to drive under the influence, even if one is simply "buzzed," especially during the holidays with large gatherings of families and friends. Alcohol-affected behavior amongst all ages is heightened during this time as people celebrate.

The NHTSA held various surveys during the Thanksgiving holiday period (defined as from the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to the Monday morning after Thanksgiving) to help show the impact of impaired driving. In 2020, 185 people died in the U.S. due to alcohol-related crashes. In the same year, they found that fatal crashes at night involved more than four times as many drivers who were alcohol-impaired than in the daytime. From 2014 to 2019, 800 people died during the Thanksgiving period as a result of a drunk driver, whether in the same car or not, based on another survey by the NHTSA.

The NHTSA encourages the public to "celebrate with a plan," offering tips for this time of year: If someone chooses to drink, even outside of Thanksgiving and the holidays, they should remember to designate a sober driver. Another reminder shared is that if a friend or family member cannot be a designated driver, local sober ride services exist in most communities as an alternative. While driving to and from events, a citizen should contact local law enforcement if they see a drunk driver as an additional way to help keep the roads safe. Lastly, the NHTSA implores for friends to keep an eye on one another when under the influence, taking their keys if necessary and finding a safe, sober driver to take each other home.

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate and give thanks to loved ones and friends. However, people should take extra care to also keep it a time of safety and responsibility, and remember that buzzed driving can still equal the effects of drunk driving.

"Always remember to plan ahead if you will be celebrating."

THE U.S. NHTSA



## TRIVIA

Do truck drivers get paid on holidays?



give thanks



If you have any questions about these topics or how  
Kelly Anderson Group can help your business,  
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Articles written by Sky Seaman at Kelly Anderson Group

## Company Updates

- **Kelly Anderson Group** was nominated and selected as the Neosho Business of the Month for November!
- **Service Providers**, be sure to sign up your trainers for Qualification Certification before your peak season! As an approved FXG vendor, we offer our Impact Safety Trainer Program which can help get your drivers qualified! We are continuing class through 2022! Visit our website to see where we're traveling to.

## Team Member Spotlight

Emileigh Barnes



**Position:** *Final Mile Recruiting Team Lead*

**Length at company:** *3.5 years*

**Quote About Job:** *"My colleagues! We have an awesome group of girls in our Recruiting department! Blessed to work with them daily!"*

**QUIZ ANSWER:** **Most fleet employers do offer holiday pay, although the wage varies. This helps provide incentive for truckers to drive on holidays, including Thanksgiving.**