

**Wilson Lines**

# Wilson Lines Times

**March 2008**

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## Message from the President

The Wilson Lines Times is back! The last year has brought us many changes. The new computer system consumed a lot of time and effort. I'm very pleased with the information available to us. The system has also proven its value in that we currently have two less people in administration than we did 1.5 years ago.

The economy and fuel prices have certainly been tough on all of us. Last year I read that 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2007 or 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2008 would bring us a stronger economy. It has not yet. Wilson Lines had one of our poorest years in many years. Fortunately,

we are financially poised to withstand the hard times better than most.

On a positive note, Wilson Lines has great group of drivers who have helped us control our truck insurance costs.

Safety extends to every part of the company from office to shop to drivers. With that in mind, I look forward to everyone attending our safety meeting April 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Thank you for your efforts and commitment to safe driving and excellent service to our customers.**

**Larry**

## Safety Tip: Take the Pledge

*Safe driving is up to you. Recognize the risks you face— and do all you can to ensure your own safety and the safety of others.*

*Safe driving is the responsibility of each individual driver.*

*Read more on page 3.*

## Annual Safety Awards Meeting

We will hold our annual Safety Awards Breakfast on **Saturday, April 5, 2008 at Treasure Island Resort & Casino near Red Wing, MN.**

Breakfast will be served at 9:00 am and a meeting will follow. We will be in the **Tahiti Room** where we held our Holiday Party. Bring your spouse and join us for food and fun.

We would like to see all of you here. You will have a chance for winning prizes!

**Mark your calendar and get your belt buckles to Judith.**

Please r.s.v.p Kathleen by March 28.





With the cost of fuel at record levels, it is important that drivers operate as efficiently as possible.

## Secrets of Better Fuel Economy

As oil prices go up, your skills as a driver can make a big difference in the cost effectiveness of every trip.

As you've seen, the lower gears are good for power but not for economy. Gear Down Protection maximizes the percentage of distance in top gear (which should be greater than 90%). When the driver downshifts, the gear down protection cuts back on the top speed, encouraging the driver to stay in top gear. Gear down protection also senses engine

load to make sure that it doesn't limit the engine speed when the downshift is truly justified due to a heavy load.

**Cruise control** in general can make every driver better than average.

The key to effective cruise operation is **anticipating changes** that may occur while driving on the open road. Maintaining a high field of vision and proper following distances is a good start.

The keys to **managing the vehicle's road speeds** involve maintaining the lowest reasonable cruise speeds possible and minimizing time spent at maximum vehicle road speeds. The vehicle's road speed has a tremendous effect on fuel economy. As road speed increases, so does air resistance and rolling resistance. The power required to move the vehicle down the road increases. In the engine's ECM, you can set the Road Speed Governor to limit the top speed of the vehicle.

**Rock-Solid Rule**  
Above 55 mph,  
each 1 mph increase  
in vehicle speed  
decreases mileage  
by 0.1 mpg.

## Save Money: Watch Your Speeds

We all know speeding limits a driver's ability to drive in a safe and protective manner. Here are some of the problems associated with speeding.

**Safe stopping distances are greatly reduced:** Safe stopping distances for trucks and cars are dramatically different, and the speed of the vehicle dictates the amount of space required to safely

stop.

**Increase in fuel consumption:** For every one mile per hour over 55 mph, fuel consumption increases 2.2%. That equates to about one mile per gallon from 55 to 65 mph. This has become a problem even with today's electronic engines that are designed to provide the best fuel economy while running at lower RPMs.

**Increase in overall maintenance costs:** Increased speed increases operational costs. Fleets running at maximum speed limits can anticipate a 10-15% increase in maintenance costs and a 10-15% decrease in component durability.

The price paid for small gains in speeding is very large.

## Engine Idling

Idle time can significantly affect the vehicle's fuel efficiency. Therefore, avoid unnecessary engine idling. The vehicle gets its worst mpg when the engine runs and the truck doesn't move.

Idle/PTO fuel consumption increases exponentially with engine speed (0—10% impact on mpg). When idling is necessary to maintain cab/

bunk compartment temperatures, select the lowest idle speed possible (no higher than 800 rpm).

**The City of Dallas, Texas, will begin enforcing a new anti-idling law on April 1.** The city passed an ordinance in May 2007 prohibiting motor vehicles that weigh over 14,000 pounds from idling longer than 5 minutes

during the annual peak ozone period of April 1 through October 31. Use of such idling-reduction options as auxiliary power units, direct-fired heaters, and electrification are permitted to provide driver comfort. Violating the 5-minute idling limit may result in penalties up to \$500



**Idling costs you money.** Every hour of idle time in a long-haul operation can decrease fuel efficiency by 1%.

## How to Reduce Your Crash Risk

Risk avoidance tips that each driver can take to ensure their safety and the safety of others:

**Focus your attention:** Being a safe driver means being both physically and mentally prepared to drive. Being well rested, alert and attentive enables you to respond quickly. Keep your eyes on the road, hands on the wheel and mind on the drive.

**Keep your distance:** Give yourself room to react. You'll need it in a crisis. To

protect yourself, keep a large "safety cushion" around your vehicle. If the unexpected happens, you'll have room to stop or take evasive action.

**Watch your speed:** Posted speeds are for ideal driving conditions. Slow down when traffic, roadway, weather or visibility conditions are less than ideal. At higher speeds, stopping distances are much longer and crashes are more severe.

**Scan your environment:** Be aware of upcoming cross

streets. Spotting a traffic sign or signal early prepares you to stop. Being in a hurry and trying to run the light at an intersection places you and other motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists at risk.

**Know your surroundings:** When possible, position your vehicle to avoid backing. Before backing, know what is beside and behind your vehicle. Back very slowly while looking and listening for trouble. Continuously check rear and side mirrors.

Take charge of your driving behavior – reduce your crash risk

## Avoiding U-Turns

Run-under crashes are one of the most devastating losses a trucking company can experience. A run-under crash can cost many thousands of dollars in physical damage and personal injury. Many run-under crashes involve U-turns. A run-under crash caused by a U-turn is possibly the easiest to prevent. **Never make a U-turn.**

Making a U-turn is not an

acceptable driving technique. When a driver attempts to make a U-turn, the life of the driver and the lives of others may be put in danger. Below are two methods drivers can use to help get back on course instead of making a U-turn:

1) In urban areas, find a safe area to turn around. Find an area where a driver can safely turn around without

endangering anyone. An open parking lot may work well.

2) On the highway, circle back through other roads. Roads are interconnected. If a driver happens to miss a turn, chances are a turn or off-ramp exists a few miles ahead. Use them to get safely back on track.



## Who is the Value-Driven Driver?

No matter how experienced, how skilled they may be, the Value-Driven Driver believes there is something more to learn, and driving skills can always be improved.

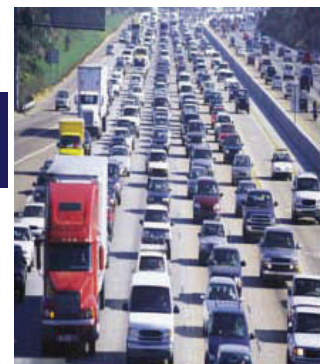
In spite of the seemingly endless miles and hours behind the wheel, the Value-Driven Driver remains alert, attentive, and prepared for

any hazard that may be encountered on the road.

Regardless of the rigors of the road, the weather, the traffic, the delays and changing schedules, the Value-Driven Driver is determined to stay true to their first responsibility: Protecting Others on the Road.

### Exercising proper proactive driving Techniques:

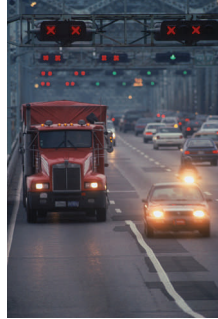
- Never make a U-turn
- Install reflective tape
- Avoid backing out onto a roadway
- Properly monitor the speed of approaching vehicles
- Be aware of what other vehicles are doing



## Employee and Driver Information

### Fuel Receipts at Newport

When fueling at Newport please complete your fuel receipts. Include the date, your name and gallons. For tractor fuel select highway and enter your tractor number. For reefer tank fuel select non-highway and write down your trailer number. Put the ticket on the desk in the trailer shop. We need this information for reefer refund and fuel tax purposes.



### Changing Units

When you take a different unit than assigned to you please inform dispatch about the change. We transfer the miles per unit from dispatch to the fuel tax system. It is very important that dispatch has the unit number you are driving!

### Hours of Service Rules

The motor carrier has to verify its drivers' records using the supporting documents. The carrier compares the driver logs with any and all receipts that are in the driver's trip/expense envelope for that trip. This includes delivery receipts, lumber receipts, bills of lading, fuel tickets, tolls, scales, and any other dated supporting documents.

Please match your toll tickets' date and time against your logs. Also record the date and time of each road side inspection. If the road side inspection shows a mechanical defect, please note this on your post trip inspection.

Owner/Operators: please note that if a state inspection notes any mechanical defects, not only note them on your post trip inspection, make sure that when repaired it is listed on that month's maintenance recap.

**Under regulations, the driver and the carrier are jointly responsible for the accuracy of the drivers' daily logs**

### Happy Anniversary!

#### January

Harry Evanoff 10 years  
Wayne House 8 years  
Judith Hofstad 3 years

#### February

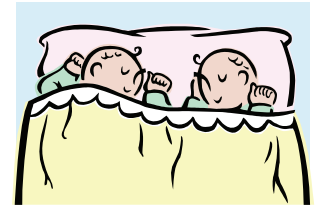
Jerry Knutson 24 years  
Vern Bettis 17 years  
Larry Basham-Bower 5 years  
Ron Laeupple 5 years  
Tony Brossard 1 year  
Mike Bondeson 1 year

#### March

Maurice Behling 6 years  
Doug Ward 2 years

### Happy Birthday!

Pinky Conrad	01/01
Richard Bale	01/07
Dave Wolbert	01/10
Larry Wokson	01/24
Mike Bondeson	02/04
Vern Bettis	02/11
Larry Hofstad	02/18
Craig Swenson	03/04
Rick Lovejoy	03/05
Harry Evanoff	03/12
Brad Yanish	03/27
Norm Blanchard	03/28
Dean Stotler	03/31



### Baby Girls!!!

Congratulation to Mike and Monica Bondeson on the birth of their twin girls Justina and Josie. They were born on February 20, 2008.



### Wilson Lines

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### Announcement

Mike Marvin and Amy Swanson will be married this Saturday March 15, 2008. Congratulations to the happy couple from all of us at Wilson Lines!

Mike has been with Wilson Lines since November of 2004 as an owner operator.