



THE ADVENTURE OF THE OPEN ROAD

PLOTTING A COURSE



Utah is truly the trucking “crossroads of the west” with large trucks accounting for over 23 percent of all vehicles on state roads and highways. These trucks come from all over the U.S. Likewise, Utah commercial vehicle drivers frequently travel through various states providing opportunities for them to see the nation. Here are some tips to safely navigate roads in unfamiliar cities and towns.

REVIEW MAPS AND PLAN AHEAD



Plan your driving route before getting behind the wheel so you can keep on schedule. This will help prevent distractions that may occur while trying to read a map or get directions. It’s okay to use electronic devices, such as a navigation system, but not while driving. Pull safely to the side of the roadway, stop and take a break. Always carry a written copy of your route plan.

SIGNAL YOUR INTENTIONS



Use turn signals to indicate your intent to change lanes.



Visually scan for adjacent traffic and road hazards, and then execute a safe lane change.



By signaling your intentions well in advance, you will be in a safer position to communicate with the surrounding drivers and you will be able to navigate the road safely.



CHECK FOR CONSTRUCTION AND TRAFFIC



Either you or your dispatcher should check for weather, construction and traffic updates, as well as any road closures or restrictions you might encounter and possibly avoid. For example, use UDOT’s traffic website: udottraffic.utah.gov.

DON'T SUDDENLY CHANGE YOUR DIRECTION



If you miss a turn or an exit, keep driving and find a safe location to turn around. Do not take shortcuts. Trying to suddenly correct a missed turn or exit may result in you performing an illegal or unsafe maneuver, which may threaten your safety and the safety of the other vehicles around you.

For further information visit the following sites or email drivetostayalive@utah.gov



Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration
fmcsa.dot.gov

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
cvsa.org

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