

Truck driver offers safe driving tips

WASHINGTON — Planning ahead and constantly staying alert have gotten America's top trucker through 3.5 million often hazardous miles without an accident.

And, says Frank M. Waldron, the 1979 Driver of the Year of the American Trucking Associations, Inc., "there are plenty of common-sense ways of avoiding accidents used by truckers that automobile drivers can practice, too."

Waldron has driven accident-free for 43 years, and feels his safety suggestions are especially pertinent during National Transportation Week, May 13-19.

Since he's hauled everything from dynamite (during the 1950's) to huge steam generators as a heavy specialized load hauler, Waldron is very conscious of the need for planning to avoid accidents.

"You've always got to be one step ahead of the other guy who might hit you," he says.

Each year, Waldron drives almost 100,000 miles carrying heavy loads for C &

H Transport Co., Inc. of Dallas. Keeping those loads safely on the road is a job that demands the utmost in concentration.

Before Waldron leaves his home terminal in Phoenix for a run, he makes sure his rig is in safe operating condition.

He begins by walking around the vehicle while it is running with its lights on to make sure safety devices are working.

Waldron acknowledges that this practice is not always convenient for a motorist each time he drives, but adds:

"This inspection should be done at regular intervals so you aren't driving a car with lights out or a loose windshield wiper blade that could come undone at any time."

After this "pre-trip" inspection," the motorist should take careful note of highway conditions — and realize that not all other drivers are doing the same thing.

"No matter how much a driver adjusts his driving habits to unsafe or wet

conditions, it's wise to remember there are a lot of people on the road who will drive the same speed at all times, regardless of weather. It's best to always keep alert for their unsafe habits so they won't involve you in an accident."

Waldron cautions. After adjusting to road conditions, drivers should watch merging traffic coming into their lanes from all side streets, and this is especially true on interstate highways.

"You can't really depend on people obeying yield signs, although most safety-conscious drivers do. Always be prepared to take evasive action," the 43-year professional driving veteran advises.

And always, Waldron cautions: "Remember there are people behind you that don't have any idea what you plan to do without some warning. Always use turn signals before switching lanes, and make sure to leave plenty of room for the guy in the next lane. He may not be paying close enough attention to brake if you switch too soon."

The veteran trucker is a firm believer in the 55-mph speed limit for both saving lives and fuel.

"The 55 limit saves wear and tear on both me and my rig. And, that speed gives a driver a lot more time to react to possible trouble than a 65 or 70 miles per hour limit," he notes.

In obeying the speed limit, it's wise for drivers not to allow themselves to be hemmed into large clusters of vehicles.

As the Driver of the Year

York Co. FFA judging contests held

RED LION - The York County FFA Association recently held its dairy and livestock judging contests. Contestants from Dover, Eastern, Kennard-Dale, Northern and Red Lion Area Schools met at Red Lion Area High School for the contests and went to various farms to judge the different species of livestock.

Kevin Holtzinger and Donald Lanus hosted the dairy judging teams while James Parlett, Mrs. Paul Ebaugh, and Donald Walter provided the swine, sheep

and beef classes for the livestock contest.

Greg Fantom of Kennard Dale High School won the dairy judging contest followed by Jimmy Shoff, Kathy Arnold, Barb Kilgore and Jim Innerst, all of Red Lion.

Capturing the livestock contest was Greg Innerst of Red Lion with fellow Red Lion Area FFA members Leroy Bowles, Brenda Walter, Beth Holtzinger, and Tom Muller rounding out the top five.

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