



# Idealease Safety Bulletin

April 20, 2012

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## Now is the Time for all Drivers to Tune Up their Pre & Post Trip Inspection Skills!



### *Roadcheck 2012 will take place June 5-7!*

Starting June 5, approximately 10,000 specially-trained and certified officers will blanket North America's roadways to prevent truck and bus crashes and save lives. For the past 25 years, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) annual Roadcheck event dispatches federal, state, provincial and local inspectors to conduct North American Standard Inspections around the clock for 72 hours from June 5 - 7. These inspections involve a comprehensive 37-step procedure which includes items related to vehicle, driver and cargo safety. Inspectors also hand out educational materials to drivers on various aspects of commercial vehicle, driver and hazardous materials safety.

#### **UPCOMING EVENT**

**Roadcheck 2012**  
June 5-7, 2012

### **How to Conduct Yourself if Pulled Over by a Law Enforcement Official:**

The flashing lights of a police car in a rear view mirror fill many drivers with dread. "Am I really being pulled over?" you might wonder. Although no one likes being pulled over, it's essential to show a law enforcement officer that you're cooperating. From the moment those lights come on, the officer is observing your behavior and the way you respond may affect whether or not you receive a ticket.

As soon as you see those flashing lights behind you, turn on your right turn signal and pull over to the right as quickly -- but also as safely -- as possible. It is important to make sure that you are able to pull over in a place that is safe, flat and solid. Again, it's important to show the officer that you're cooperating, and by stopping safely as near where the violation occurred, you may have a better sense of what happened. You will also be able to make observations about the area that can help you if you contest the ticket, such as noting an obstructed speed limit sign or that a new yield sign is in place.

Once you have safely pulled over, turn off the engine, roll down your window all the way and place your hands on the steering wheel. Do not get out of the truck unless asked by the officer. If it's dark, turn on the interior lights in your truck. Don't make any sudden movements and don't rummage through your belongings, looking for your wallet until you are asked for documentation. Remember that law enforcement officers are killed every year while



conducting routine traffic stops, so it's understandable that an officer may treat you with suspicion. Respond accordingly by being cooperative and do not give any cause for alarm.

It's OK to greet the officer, but it's wise to wait for the officer to ask you a question. He or she will likely ask for your driver's license, medical certificate, logbook and vehicle registration. It's important to give the officer these documents when asked and not question why. However, if you are pulled over by an unmarked car or aren't sure if the person is a police officer, it's acceptable to wait to roll down your window until the person has identified himself or herself as an officer.

When talking with the officer, don't admit any guilt. It's acceptable to give simple yes or no answers to questions. If an officer decides to give you a ticket, his or her mind is already made up, and it's very unlikely you'll be able to argue your way out of it. Anything you say could later be used in court-- should you choose to contest the ticket; so be mindful of what you say. Never try to bribe the officer -- this is not only highly unethical, but it is also a crime.



During a traffic stop, an officer can only search your truck if there's probable cause to believe you're concealing something illegal or if he or she believes that you are dangerous. Before approaching a motorist he or she has pulled over, an officer usually looks for movement by the driver, such as one shoulder dipping down, something that would indicate that the driver is attempting to hide something underneath a seat or in a compartment.

If an officer asks you to get out of your truck, it's once again important to cooperate. Once you are out of the truck, the officer may pat you down, and if anything illegal or suspicious is found, he or she may then search your truck. If your truck becomes impounded, it can also be legally searched then, as well.

An officer might ask you to sign your ticket, but depending on state law, you may not have to. Signing a ticket is not an admission of guilt. It just means that you agree to pay the fine or to appear in court.

## Safe Driving Tips for Summer Weather Conditions

### *Tornado*



- Do not drive during tornado conditions.
- Never try to out-drive a tornado in a vehicle. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift a car or truck and toss it through the air.
- Get out of your vehicle immediately and seek shelter in a nearby building.
- If there is no time to get indoors, or if there is no nearby shelter, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or a low-lying area away from the vehicle. Over passes also can be places of refuge, however, be aware of the potential for flooding.

### *Severe Thunderstorms and Lightning*



- Tune in to your radio to stay informed of approaching storms.
- If you see a tornado or hear a tornado warning, don't try to outrun it. View tornado driving safety tips.
- Turn on your headlights (low beams) and slow down. Many states require the use of headlights during rain.
- Allow extra distance for braking.

- Do not drive unless necessary.
- Pull safely onto the shoulder of the road away from any trees that could fall on the vehicle.
- Stay in the car and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rains subside.
- An automobile provides better insulation against lightning than being in the open.
- Avoid contact with any metal conducting surfaces either inside your car or outside.
- Avoid flooded roadways.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- Check your windshield wipers and tires regularly to insure that they are ready for severe weather.
- Approach intersections with caution
- Treat traffic lights at intersections as stop signs.



### Upcoming seminars for 2012:

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| -April 24- Monroe, LA  | -May 3- Bristol, IN        |
| -April 25- Tupelo, MS  | -May 3- Columbia, SC       |
| -April 26- Memphis, TN | -May 8- Grand Junction, CO |
| -May 2- Detroit, MI    | -May 10- Denver, CO        |
| -May 2- Charlotte, NC  | -May 23- Kelowna, BC       |

**To register for a seminar click on:**

[www.Idealease.com/safety](http://www.Idealease.com/safety)

### **NEW FOR 2012 SEMINARS!!!!**

This year during the seminar you will receive Drug and Alcohol Supervisor Training. This training meets the requirements of FMCSA CFR 382.603 that requires all supervisors of commercial motor vehicle drivers to have the training for reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing.