



**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY  
HOLIDAY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

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**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 08, 2007 at The Original Benjamin's Restaurant in Myrtle Beach, SC. Hope to see you there.

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**AIR FILTERS**

They do get dirty over time and can gradually cause your power and fuel mileage to drop. If you have a clogged air filter, exhaust will often have excessive black smoke, especially under acceleration.

If this is the case, replace the air filter or filters. Don't be a cheapskate and blow them out with air – that will tear the filter element and allow dirt to find its way into the engine's air intake.

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**DRIVING IN REDUCED  
VISIBILITY CONDITIONS**

Reduced visibility conditions include twilight, darkness, rain, snow, fog, smoke, and bright sunshine.

Use moderation in judging safe speed. Slow down enough to maintain a safe stopping distance.

Do not slow down so much that you become a risk to drivers behind you.

Be aware that in reduced visibility conditions, drivers tend to follow the tail lights of vehicles in front of them. If you must pull off of the road, pull as far off of the road as possible, turn off your headlights, take your foot off of the brake pedal, and turn on your hazard lights.

Make sure you have a pair of sunglasses in your vehicle to deal with bright sunlight.

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**TIRE CARE**

*Check your tires regularly:* Check your tires regularly to be sure there are no visible signs of wear or damage.

*Be sure your tires are properly inflated:* Check your tire pressure often with a gauge, especially on long trips. Measure when the tires are cold, before you drive on them. You can find the recommended inflation pressure in your owner's manual. The recommended inflation pressure is not to be confused with the maximum inflation pressure shown on the side of the tire. At the recommended inflation pressure, tires will last longer and be less likely to fail, and the vehicle will use less fuel. Serious injury can result from tire failure because of under inflation or overloading.

*Never overload your vehicle:* Your vehicle and tires are designed to operate safely only up to their load limits. These limits are shown in your owner's manual.

*Make sure there is enough tread on your tires:* Make sure there is enough tread on your tires to operate safely, and make sure the tires are wearing normally. All grooves should be visible. Low tread or bald tires are unsafe and need to be replaced.

*If some spots on the tire seem to be wearing faster than others, see your service station or mechanic:* You could have misaligned wheels, worn shock absorbers, or other potential problems. Make sure your tires are aligned and balanced properly.

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### **REDUCING HIGHWAY SPEED**

A line-haul truck with 90 percent highway miles that reduces its top speed from 70 to 65 miles per hour could cut its annual fuel bill nearly \$1,500.

Reducing highway speed also reduces engine and brake wear, which cuts down the cost and frequency of maintenance service, and keeps revenue earning equipment on the road longer.

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### **CHECK UP FOR YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**

Battery woes are common in winter, but what the people in the battery industry know is that summer weakens a battery. Heat is what really damages your battery. The increased demand of cold weather cranking finishes the job. Here are six helpful tips :

*Check for and remove corrosion on the terminals:* Ensure that all cable

connections are tight, including interconnecting battery cables, battery and mag switch cables to the starter, alternator cables, and beyond.

Inspect the drive belt on your alternator – is it tight and in good condition?

Repeat these checks frequently in bad weather – the chemicals used to de-ice roads can be highly corrosive.

*Load testing and more:* These checks require equipment and experience. Mechanically inclined owner-operators or fleet service technicians may be able to do them.

*Check your batteries with a load tester:* Test the cranking, solenoid control and charging circuits for excessive voltage drop.

*Drawing on battery cab for comfort devices?* The advice here is to buy an inverter specially designed for your truck – your best source to guarantee this is the dealership, not a truck stop, where they may be selling RV or marine inverters.

*Need a battery, check ratings:* The cold cranking amps (CCA) number 1 show much power a battery can deliver at 0 degrees F (-18 degrees C). The number can range from the 500s to over 900 and is measured in amperes.

The cranking amps (CA) number is the power delivered at 32 degrees F, or 0 degrees C. A battery's ability to supply power is halved by every 10 degree drop in the temperature.

Reserve capacity (RC) is the third reference number, and while it may not be on the battery, it's important especially for fleet drivers who run stereos, VCRs, refrigerators and other accessories. The RC is the number of minutes that a fully charged battery at 80 degrees F can be continually discharged at a 25 ampere load ( a substantial load) and still maintain a voltage of 10.5.

*Battery maintenance savvy:* Fleets should use TMC Recommended Practice procedure RP129 for maximum allowable voltage drop when testing charge / start circuits. Your dealer can help you get these guides.

Preventive maintenance is not an indulgence, it's a great way to keep trucks in excellent condition year round.

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**HAPPY 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
TO GARY AND JACKIE DAVIS  
ON NOVEMBER 15, 2007**

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Gary and Jackie Davis  
On the birth of their granddaughter

Gabrielle Rheanna Davis  
Born November 5, 2007  
5 lbs. 13 oz.

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**NEW TRUCKS**

Stephen White 1448  
Leevonne Evans 1449

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Gary Davis	12-03
Herbert Franklin	12-04
Jerome Foxworth	12-09
Michael Harrison	12-12
Willie Spears	12-18
Charles Drayton	12-24
Damone Bell	12-28
Claude Fields	12-28

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**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WITH  
LEWIS TRUCK LINES!**

John Covington 23 Years

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Claude Fields has been in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

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James Tisdell fell and got hurt on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Our thoughts and prayers are with him. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

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