

Roadside & Emergency Policy

1. Objective and Scope

This policy outlines the mandatory safety, communication, and operational procedures to be followed by all drivers and dispatchers in the event of an equipment failure, roadside emergency, or motor vehicle accident. The primary objective is to safeguard the driver and the traveling public, secure the freight, and maintain full compliance with Department of Transportation (DOT) emergency regulations.

2. Roadside Breakdown Protocol

If a vehicle experiences a mechanical failure, flat tire, or loss of power while en route under a load, the driver must execute the following safety protocol without delay:

Phase 1: Immediate Vehicle Stabilization

- **Pull Over Safely:** Identify a wide, flat shoulder or an upcoming exit ramp. Avoid stopping on curves, bridges, or narrow underpasses whenever possible.
- **Secure the Position:** Pull as far onto the right shoulder as possible, turn the steering wheel completely away from the roadway, engage the parking brake, and shut down the engine.
- **Activate Visibility:** Immediately turn on the vehicle's hazard flashers (four-way flashers). If the breakdown occurs at night or during low-visibility weather, keep the truck's clearance lights on.

Phase 2: Placement of Warning Devices (FMCSA 392.22)

Within **ten (10) minutes** of stopping, the driver must exit the cab wearing a high-visibility safety vest and deploy three (3) bi-directional reflective warning triangles behind the trailer.

[TRUCK & TRAILER] =====> ▲ 10 Feet ▲ 100 Feet ▲ 100 Feet
(Broken Down) (Rear Bumper) (Behind Truck) (Ahead of Truck)

- **On a Divided Highway/One-Way Road:** Place triangles behind the vehicle at **10 feet**, **100 feet**, and **200 feet**.
- **On a Two-Lane Road:** Place one triangle **100 feet ahead** of the truck, one triangle **10 feet behind** the rear bumper, and a third triangle **100 feet behind** the second triangle to warn traffic from both directions.

3. Roadside Cargo Security Check

Because hotshot trailers sit low to the ground and have exposed sides, roadside vibrations or heavy winds can cause straps and chains to shift during an emergency stop.

- While waiting for roadside assistance, the driver must perform a visual check of the load securement *only if it can be done safely from the non-traffic side of the trailer*.
- **Never** attempt to tighten straps or chains on the side of the trailer facing live, active traffic lanes. Wait for emergency vehicles or a service truck to provide a rolling block before adjusting cargo.

4. Accident Procedures & Emergency Actions

In the event of a collision or motor vehicle accident, regardless of how minor, the driver must follow this strict sequence of events:

1. Check for Injuries & Call 911: Immediate.

Assess yourself and occupants of other vehicles for injuries. Call 911 immediately to report the crash and request emergency medical services if needed. Request a police response to the scene to file an official accident report.

2. Notify Dispatch & Safety Personnel: Within 15 Minutes.

Contact the Compass Transportation LLC Safety Manager or Dispatch immediately. Provide the exact location, number of vehicles involved, status of injuries, and whether the truck/trailer requires towing.

3. Document the Scene: Before Vehicles Move.

Take high-resolution photos of all vehicles involved, emphasizing property damage, license plates, road conditions, skid marks, and traffic signs. Photograph the position of your hotshot trailer and its cargo securement to prove the load did not shift and cause the accident.

4. Exchange Info & Secure Witnesses: On-Scene.

Exchange insurance information, driver's licenses, and contact numbers with other parties. Gather names and phone numbers of any witnesses on the scene.

Critical Legal Protection Rule: Never admit fault, sign any statements, or argue with other motorists on the scene. Limit your statements to factual details provided directly to the responding law enforcement officers.

5. Post-Accident DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing

Under FMCSA rule **49 CFR Part 382.303**, hotshot drivers operating commercial motor vehicles are strictly required to undergo federal post-accident drug and alcohol testing if the crash results in:

1. A human fatality.
2. The driver receives a moving violation citation *and* any vehicle involved must be towed from the scene due to disabling damage.
3. The driver receives a moving violation citation *and* any person requires immediate medical treatment away from the scene.
 - **Testing Windows:** Alcohol testing must be completed within **2 hours** (and absolutely cannot exceed 8 hours). Drug testing must be completed within **32 hours**.
 - **Refusal:** Refusing a post-accident test, or leaving the scene of an accident prior to testing without a valid medical emergency reason, is legally categorized as a positive test result and will result in immediate termination.

6. Severe Weather and Extreme Road Conditions

Hotshot rigs are lightweight compared to 80,000-lb semi-trucks, meaning high winds, black ice, and heavy rain affect a hotshot trailer far more severely.

- **High Wind Policy:** Hotshot trailers loaded with high-profile cargo (like shipping containers, large storage tanks, or wide agricultural equipment) act like sails. If crosswinds exceed **35 MPH**, drivers are required to find a safe truck stop and park the vehicle until conditions clear.
- **Winter Operations:** Drivers must carry a set of tire chains if operating in mountainous regions during winter months. If a winter storm triggers an "Ice Warning" or makes

traction impossible, the driver must safely suspend operations and notify dispatch.
Safety always overrides a delivery deadline.