**Holiday Season Driving**

Holiday season is upon us and everybody is out doing their shopping, thinking about what to get Uncle Scrooge for Christmas and enjoying a little too much Christmas “Cheer”. Many of you will be working, fighting traffic and a whole host of people just generally not paying attention. There are a few of things that we can do that can help out in the coming days. Too keep us safe and on track to make as much money as possible.

1. **Planning.** Trip planning is one of the greatest things we can do to overcome some of the holiday mess. When we are planning we need to account for leaving ourselves adequate time to make delivery.
2. **Defensive driving.** Diving this time of the year is a greater challenge than normal so we need to step up our game and be more vigilant. Make sure you have a good following distance at all times. Don’t speed. Speeding is a big factor in a lot of crashes.
3. **Weather.** Weather this time of year changes rather quickly. One minute you’re driving on wet pavement next thing you know you are driving on ice. Check to make sure you have your chains and they are in good shape. Take your time and watch the road surface for signs of freezing. Remember no body gets to where there going if there is an accident.
4. **Patience.** Road rage is a very common thing, especially this time of year**.**  Don’t fall victim to it. Take your time and relax. People are going to be ruder than normal and more in a hurry but you as the professional driver need to rise above that.
5. **Distracted driving.** This has been a big topic for a while now as it should be. Distracted driving not only covers the cell phone, GPS, TV or whatever appliance you have. It also covers your mental state. There are a lot of things going through your mind on a normal day but this time of the year your thoughts turn to being with family and friends. We must remain focused on the task at hand, watching out for the other guy.

In the weeks coming up, there will be a lot of challenges to traveling. From the weather, to an increase in traffic, and outright rude behavior. Evan our own thoughts are an added challenge. You as a professional drivers need to Rise above it. Take your time, plan for it as best you can. Keep your eyes open and expect the unexpected. Most of all Patience will be a saving grace. Stay safe and have a wonderful holiday season.