

ISSUE 10

ROAD KNIGHTS NEWS

YOUR FAVORITE TRUCKING & LOGISTICS NEWS!

10 - 2022



“ ”

Motivational Trucking Quotes

“Being a truck driver involves much more than sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle and driving all day. There are plenty of skills needed in order to do a great job at it.” - Craig Holloman



4741 25th Ave  
Schiller Park, IL 60176  
  
Phone: (773) 756-5999  
Fax: (773) 270-3908  
Email: [Info@RoadKnights.us](mailto:Info@RoadKnights.us)  
Website: [www.roadknights.us](http://www.roadknights.us)



# About Road Knights, Inc

We offer quality transportation and logistics services to all US clients at reasonable prices. Our courteous staff have the professional tools and experience necessary to help with all your needs. Our professional trucking company is well renowned throughout the	entire US. Our team is up for every job, managing projects with the skill and experience our clients have come to expect. Road Knights, Inc. is a family-owned trucking company that has been in operation since 2010 with headquarters in Schiller Park, IL. Our trucking	company is a full truckload and LTL carrier, specializing in refrigerated or climate controlled freight, and flatbed services; special equipment or atypical shaped/sized loads included. We always stand behind our work, with customer satisfaction being our #1 priority.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- 05
- What happens when a truck driver has an accident?
- 04
- Elections don't change truck safety
- 02
- Things truckers wish other drivers knew
- 02
- Nikola posts earnings beat, skips electric truck update

# Top Five Drivers for the Month of October

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE WORKING WITH US!



- 1. Alan Davis
- 2. Anthony Gilmore
- 3. Arnold Stirzinger
- 4. Bobby Joseph
- 5. Cornelius Barnes

Meet the winner  
Alan Davis



My name is Alan Davis. I was born in State College, Pa; I grew up in the Philly, Pa area as a kid and I lived in the Richmond, Va area growing up as I got older. I love Jesus Christ, going to revival meetings and listening to the audio Bible while driving. I enjoy lifting weights and exercise also. Working at Road Knights is a double blessing for me I get to do all the things I enjoy everyday! Road Knights is the best job I have ever had and I have been driving trucks since 2011.

Road Knights is the best driving job in the industry, I love driving here! I have been driving for Road Knights since 2018, thank you for this opportunity and thank you for the honor and privilege of being driver of the mont.



4741 25th Ave  
Schiller Park, IL 60176  
Phone: (773) 756-5999  
Fax: (773) 270-3908  
Email: [Info@RoadKnights.us](mailto:Info@RoadKnights.us)  
Website: [www.roadknights.us](http://www.roadknights.us)



Motivational quote

"Keep your eyes on the stars, and  
your feet on the ground."  
— Theodore Roosevelt

# Things Truckers Wish Other Drivers Knew

Trucking is one of the most challenging jobs out there. There are long hours on the road, heavy machinery to operate, and the pressure of delivering on time. One factor many truckers agree makes their jobs all the more challenging is other motorists. Unfortunately, most motorists do not know the ins and outs of operating a large truck, and often make the mistake of assuming the same operating rules of their vehicles apply to heavy duty trucks as well. Trained professional drivers are hyper aware of dangers on the road that other motorists can pose.

Let's take a look at eight things professional truckers wish other drivers knew!



**1 LEAVE SPACE:** While most drivers are taught to leave space between the cars in front of them and their own vehicles in driver education, many don't realize the extra space trucks need. Heavy duty trucks make wide, long turns, slow stops, and gradual merges. When other drivers get too close, they run the risk of sliding beneath the truck on wide turns, getting clipped in a merge, or even causing an accident if they don't give truckers enough time to brake. Truck drivers require plenty of space to safely react to changes on the road and dangers that pop up!

**2 TRUCKS USE AIR BRAKES:** Big rigs use air brakes, a system that causes around a four-second delay in the actual brake engagement. This means, given the specific situation, trucks can need anywhere from 22 to 500 feet to come to a stop! Motorists should be careful not to cut trucks off, as they may not be able to brake in time to prevent a collision.

**3 BLIND SPOTS:** All cars have a blind spot where cars to the side or behind them will not be visible to the driver. However, on a semi, blind spots are far larger. Though the cabs have mirrors on either side, the sheer size of the vehicles prevent truckers from seeing all surrounding areas. If a motorist can't see the trucker in the cab or mirrors, that means the truck driver also can't see the motorist!

**4 MOVE OVER FOR STOPPED TRUCKS:** Truckers will have to pull over on the side of the road for various reasons. A common reason is to check on the truck if there are any complications or repairs needed. Motorists should move at least one lane over when passing a stopped truck for the safety of the trucker.

**5 COMMUNICATE WITH LIGHTS:** There are multiple ways to communicate with truckers and other drivers just using your headlights. Flashing your lights more than two times in a row will warn drivers in the opposite traffic lane about danger that might be ahead. Truckers will flash their lights once when changing lanes to let other drivers know when it is safe for them to do so. Hazard lights are another important way truckers communicate- these can indicate they will be making an abrupt stop!

**6 TRUCKS NEED TIME TO ACCELERATE:** Truckers agree that other motorists commonly get agitated around them regarding accelerating, merging, and overall speed. Other drivers should keep in mind how much a truck weighs- it takes time and power to get it all moving! Semis often have lower gears than regular vehicles and

cannot go from 20mph to 65 mph as quickly when getting onto a highway. Motorists need to be patient as trucks accelerate and avoid cutting them off.

**7 BACKING UP IN A TRUCK ISN'T EASY:** A semi-truck can be around 60-feet long; there's a lot of vehicle to carefully maneuver when backing into a parking space or gas station. Truckers will often need to adjust at several different angles while backing up in order to do it correctly. Truckers need space and time to do it safely!

**8 THIS IS A JOB:** Unlike most drivers of passenger cars, a truck driver's livelihood is on the road. Truckers are operating heavy and complex machinery for long hours to make deliveries on time, and it is a serious career. The work of every trucker impacts the availability of crucial necessities such as food, consumer goods, gas, and medical supplies. Every trucker is working hard and deserves respect for what they do and safety on the road.

Trucks are large and complicated vehicles that require years of education and experience to master. It is crucial for other drivers on the road to be aware of the differences between how their cars and how trucks function. Maintaining safety, for both themselves and for other motorists, is of the utmost importance for a professional trucker.

## Nikola Posts Earnings Beat, Skips Electric Truck Update

Nikola Corp. posted quarterly sales above expectations as production of its battery-electric trucks ramped up, but didn't provide updated guidance on its previous goal of delivering at least 300 trucks this year. Nikola built 75 of its Tre BEV trucks in the third quarter, up from 50 last quarter, according to a statement Nov. 3. It delivered 63 to dealers, below what it guided to last quarter. Nikola posted revenue of \$24.2 million, above analysts' expectations for \$22.3 million. Nikola also recorded a narrower-than-expected loss of 28 cents per share.

"During the third quarter we continued to produce and deliver Nikola Tre BEVs to dealers and customers," President Michael Lohscheller said in the statement. He's scheduled to become chief executive officer when Mark Russell steps down on Jan. 1.

Nikola shares rose 3% as of 9:01 a.m. before regular trading in New York. The stock was down 67% year-to-date through Nov. 2's close. The Phoenix-based company sees itself

as a leader in clean-energy commercial vehicles but has had a roller-coaster history getting its vehicles to market. Its efforts to develop plug-in electric trucks has been hampered by a global breakdown in supply chains and shortages of key parts, as well as managerial turmoil.

Chief Financial Officer Kim Brady warned analysts last quarter that Nikola would "more likely" come in near the bottom of a previously guided range of 300 to 500 vehicles delivered for the year. The company's third-quarter earnings statement had no additional guidance on production goals. Longer term, Nikola is focused on building

hydrogen-powered fuel-cell trucks, but those models are still in development. Nikola also is working on building out fueling infrastructure.

After going public via a special purpose acquisition company in June 2020, Nikola's market value eclipsed that of Ford Motor Co. despite having no revenue. But the stock came back to Earth after founder Trevor Milton was accused by a short seller of lying about the company's progress and technology. Last month, Milton was found guilty of defrauding investors in a New York federal court in a trial which stemmed from issues raised in the short seller's report.



4741 25th Ave  
Schiller Park, IL 60176  
Phone: (773) 756-5999  
Fax: (773) 270-3908  
Email: [Info@RoadKnights.us](mailto:Info@RoadKnights.us)  
Website: [www.roadknights.us](http://www.roadknights.us)

# The Increase in Truck-Involved Crashes and Fatalities



From 2009 to 2019, truck crash fatalities rose by 48%. In 2020, nearly 5,000 people died in truck crashes, an average of 14 per day. Truck-involved crash injuries soared by 115%, averaging 436 per day in the period, reaching 146,000 in 2020. In human terms, this means hundreds of thousands of loved ones emotionally devastated, lives disrupted, diminished, or ended every year due to truck crashes. During this same period, occupant protection improved, and active safety technologies proliferated into the automobile market. Why did then the rate of fatalities and injuries rise so much? Before we answer the question, let's look at where and how crashes happen. As trucks, passenger cars, bikers, and cyclists encounter each other, knowing where crashes happen and who's behind them can help everyone recognize dangerous situations:

- In a high percentage of crashes involving passenger cars and commercial trucks, the car was at fault. However, as professional drivers, we can and should be held to an even higher standard of defensive driving.
- Carriers often route drivers on the shortest routes rather than the safest routes. Only one in four crashes occurs on an interstate highway while 75% of truck crashes are on non-interstate roads.
- Four-way intersections see 27% of crashes.
- Rural roads endure a majority of the country's fatal truck crashes, 57%.
- On the trucks themselves, the initial contact points are 58% front, 19% back, and 15% side collisions.

From about 1999 to 2009, crashes, deaths, and injuries involving large trucks declined significantly and then began a sharp climb back up until 2020, when Covid-19 reduced road traffic, and the trend stabilized. Three things changed that helped push the rates back up in the last ten years.

- Infrastructure: As the Great Recession that began in 2008 started to ease, the trucks of an improving economy were operating on congested, underfunded transportation infrastructure.
- Fatigue: The pressures of "just in time" inventory and the spike in fast home deliveries pushed both carriers and drivers to test the limits of endurance behind the wheel, and speed limits, too. As drivers look for more hours, they can change sleep schedules drastically from week to week, impairing situational awareness and peak function.
- Distraction: Cell phones have become a dangerous source of distracted driving for all types of vehicles. The government is doing the first study in over 15 years, but we all know what can happen in the few seconds our eyes are on a device instead of the road. Cognitive distractions from even hands-free cell phones reduce situational awareness and increase the risk of distraction.

### Solutions for Crash Reduction

The most important element in reducing crashes is creating and leading a true 'culture of safety.' The norms, attitudes, values, and beliefs of organizations define the culture of an organization and are manifested in the behaviors of its agents. For a fleet or even a single driver, that means safety is a core value, consistently shown in its actions.

These are some of the essential steps in building a safety culture:

- Define and communicate the company's shared values regarding safety
- Develop well-defined policies and rules; communicate them clearly and consistently
- Create a strong safety training program; communicate its importance; make sure it's accessible
- Ensure drivers are working within DOT Hours of Service regulations
- Collect and analyze fleet safety data for training purposes
- Create a rewards program to recognize safe driving practices

While authentic safety cultures are built over time, there are more immediate steps you can take to reduce crashes:

- Fleet maintenance: Brake problems were a factor in 29% of truck crashes
- Tire care: Proper inflation, reasonable load weights, regular inspection. Tire problems factor into 6% of truck crashes.
- Hiring practices: Past behavior is the best predictor of future performance. Truck drivers with crash histories are at much greater risk of a crash than drivers with clean driving records

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW IS THAT MOST CRASHES ARE NOT ACCIDENTS, BUT RESULTS, PRIMARILY OF HUMAN DECISIONS OR ACTIONS. FORTUNATELY, THROUGH COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY, PERSISTENCE, AND REWARD, WE CAN IMPROVE DECISION-MAKING AND ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE ON OUR ROADS.



4741 25th Ave  
Schiller Park, IL 60176  
Phone: (773) 756-5999  
Fax: (773) 270-3908  
Email: [Info@RoadKnights.us](mailto:Info@RoadKnights.us)  
Website: [www.roadknights.us](http://www.roadknights.us)

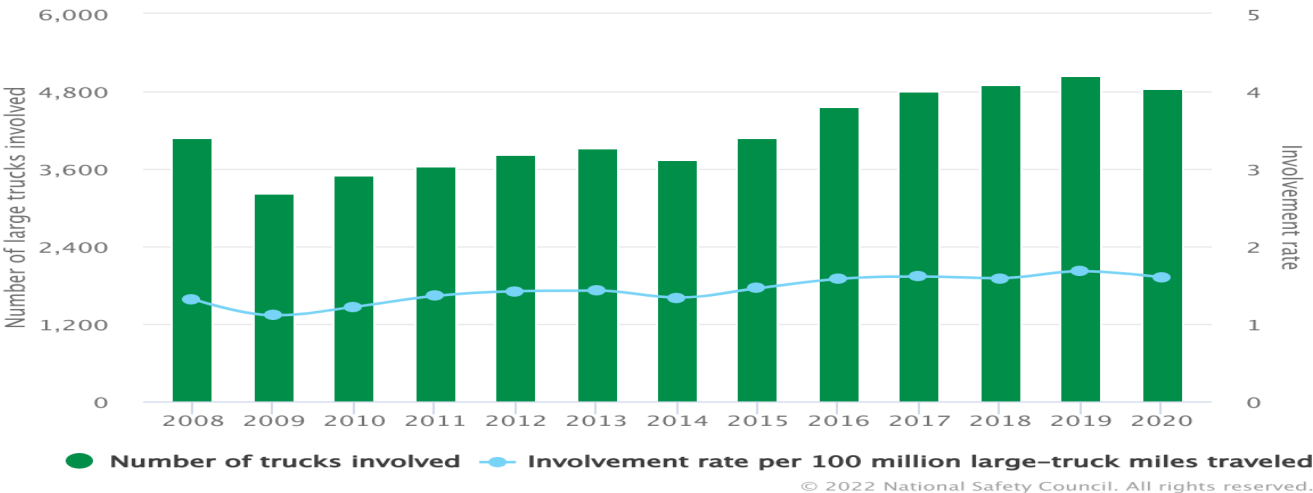


"Create healthy habits, not restrictions."



- Eat Breakfast Every day
- Stay Hydrated
- Snack on healthy foods to reduce meal portions
- Don't consume more than 2 cups of coffee per day and avoid stimulants
- Cut fizzy drinks out of your diet
- Get enough sleep
- Take time to rest every two hours
- Avoid fast food
- Exercise

Large-truck involvement in fatal crashes



# Elections don't change truck safety

November may change some of our elected officials. Party control may shift here or there. One thing the elections won't change, though, is safety.

It's election season! This year, we have state elections and national midterms with a presidential election looming in 2024. Newspapers, websites, and TV talk shows are filled with pundits and polls. Who is up and who is down, what about trend lines and turnout, what issues are foremost on voters' minds?

As a fleet manager, you likely have an opinion of which candidate or party would best serve your business and the trucking industry. You should educate yourself and act accordingly at the polls come November. That is how our representative government works in the U.S.

November may change some of our elected officials. Party control may shift here or there. One thing the elections won't change, though, is safety. While we in trucking focus intently on the details of government regulations, in the broad picture, those regulations have remained remarkably consistent over time regardless of the party in power.

However, maintaining safety on our roadways remains a priority for both parties. The list of basics for both sides of the aisle includes: proper maintenance, safe driving practices, driver qualification, drug testing, and current credentials.



Once in a great while, we see a "sea change" in government regulation of highway safety. The last such change came with the abolishment of the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and the demise of economic regulation in the 1980s and 1990s. On the other hand, many of the old ICC programs have parallels under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration because the basics of highway safety have not changed.

Today, what is changing is technology. The instrumentation, monitoring, and reporting of highway safety is evolving rapidly. That is why you, your drivers, and fellow employees must remain actively engaged in proposed federal regulations. Regulatory proposals can influence how much regulation

and government involvement exist in everyday trucking operations. You and your trucking colleagues are best positioned to evaluate the practicality and potential intrusiveness of new safety technology and regulations. When regulatory agencies announce proposed rulemakings, it's your responsibility to make your voice heard through the public comment process.

Both sides of the aisle have embraced proper maintenance, safe driving practices, driver qualification, drug testing, and current credentials and have created regulatory stability over the years. When properly applied, they also have improved highway safety. Compliance is your responsibility as well!



4741 25th Ave  
Schiller Park, IL 60176  
Phone: (773) 756-5999  
Fax: (773) 270-3908  
Email: [Info@RoadKnights.us](mailto:Info@RoadKnights.us)  
Website: [www.roadknights.us](http://www.roadknights.us)



"LIKE SHARE FOLLOW"

## ROAD KNIGHTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Our company will soon start being more active on Facebook and Instagram. We would love for you to be a part of our social media platforms and participate in many giveaways.

To begin with, we will create a poll of the most interesting images of you during your workday. Send us some interesting pictures of you while at pick up, delivery, waiting for something on your trip, etc. We will have others vote which of you has the best photo. The winning photo, with the highest rating, will bring you a cash prize.

Do not hesitate to follow us on social media and be part of the team and win prizes.

<https://www.instagram.com/roadknights.us/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/RoadKnights.us>



@RoadKnights.us

@roadknights.us

SAFETY

What Happens When a Truck Driver Has an Accident?

Sharing the road with large trucks can often be a hair-raising experience, especially while traveling at high speeds down highways or maneuvering through tight inner-city traffic. When an accident occurs and a truck driver causes personal injury to others, there are ways to recover compensation through litigation. Read on for more about this topic.

DRUG TESTING THE TRUCK DRIVER AFTER AN ACCIDENT

After an accident involving a commercial truck, the truck driver may need to undergo a drug test. The branch of the United States Department of Transportation that regulates semi-trucks and their drivers, The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, outlines clear guidance on when a drug test is required of a semi-truck driver after they are involved in an accident. Below is a summary of different scenarios in which the FMCSA requires the truck driver to submit to a drug test.

When a human fatality occurs due to the accident, the semi-truck driver must take a drug test. They must also submit to testing in cases where a person incurs bodily injury with immediate medical care treatment received away from the scene of the accident. Additionally, cases where there is disabling damage to any motor vehicle that requires tow-away services will lead the truck driver to receiving a drug test.

Federal laws also mandate any driver that is reasonably suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol to immediately be tested. Employers must also train supervisors of semi-truck drivers on how to detect symptoms of driver impairment.

A drug test is required of a trucker in just about every type of accident scenario. When a drug test comes back positive for any type of illicit substance, it can be a substantial source of evidence that the plaintiff and their truck accident attorney can use to prove that the truck driver was acting in a negligent manner and that this negligence contributed to the accident and subsequent personal injuries sustained by the victim.

CITATIONS FOR SEMI-TRUCK DRIVERS

Commercial semi-truck drivers are subject to harsher blood-alcohol content testing compared to other drivers, since the consequences of drunk driving for truckers are often more catastrophic. While the legal limit for non-commercial drivers over the age of 21 is a BAC of .08, for semi-truck drivers the limit is .04.

The penalties for drunk driving in Illinois indicate that any person convicted of a DUI faces up to one year in prison and is subject to pay a fine of up to \$2,500. For a second conviction within five years of the previous violation, the offender must serve a mandatory five days in prison or 240 hours of community service.

When a truck driver receives a citation for drunk or intoxicated driving after an accident, it can be used as solid evidence by a victim and their attorney throughout the litigation process. Because driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a universal violation of state and federal traffic laws as well as the terms of employment for truck drivers, this situation almost always acts in favor of the plaintiff

when attempting to recover compensation for damages they have sustained from the accident.

COMMON CAUSES OF SEMI-TRUCK ACCIDENTS

Blind spots contribute to commercial truck accidents in a number of ways. One common cause of accidents occurs when vehicles are following each other too closely, whether in front or behind a semi-truck. Semi-trucks need a much longer stretch of road in which to slow down, meaning a passenger vehicle that stops abruptly in front of a semi-truck may not be able to avoid being hit from the rear. On a similar note, cars that follow too closely behind a semi may not be ready to brake at the same frequency that truck drivers do, leading to a collision.

Truck driving is an exhausting profession, which is why truck driver fatigue is another common cause of accidents. Fatigue can lead truck drivers to make careless mistakes including not completely assessing their blind spots for signs of danger. Due to the demands of the trucking industry, truck drivers are expected to sit for prolonged periods of time, often at hours of the day that do not align with their normal sleep schedules. This can cause impaired judgment, leading to accidents on the road.

Sudden lane changes constitute another common cause of accidents between semi-truck drivers and other motorists. When either party commits a sudden lane change, it can cause a change reaction of reflexive maneuvers that can cause drivers to lose control of their vehicle. Truck drivers should take prolonged precaution to ensure there is not a vehicle in their blind spots before executing a lane change.

Finally, distracted driving can cause accidents between semi-trucks and passenger vehicles. When a truck driver is distracted by their phone or something else, it can lead to absent-minded decision making that rarely includes due attention to the truck’s blind spots.

DETERMINING WHETHER THE ACCIDENT WAS PREVENTABLE

Victims of semi-truck accident injuries may want to understand their options for pursuing legal action in order to recover compensation for any damages incurred as a result of the accident. As experienced personal injury lawyers at Palermo Law Group, we have the expertise to tell you all you need to know.

To successfully recover compensation, a plaintiff and their legal team must be able to prove to the courts that the semi-truck driver was acting in a negligent manner in the events leading to the accident. For example, if the driver was not properly checking their blind spots in the moments leading to crash, this can likely be considered negligent behavior and therefore the driver and/or their company may be liable for compensating the injured victim.

Trucking companies usually equip the cabins of their vehicles with two-way dashboard cameras (i.e. dash cams). These cameras can be used as evidence to determine whether or not the driver was being negligent. In addition, drivers of passenger vehicles may consider

purchasing a dash cam of their own, especially if they frequently share the road with a high number of semi-trucks. In the event of an accident, the evidence gained from these devices can help courts quickly determine fault.

Illinois law operates under a method of fault determination known as “modified comparative negligence.” Under this system, an injured party can only recover damages if he or she is less than 50% responsible for the events that ultimately lead to the accident and subsequent incursion of personal injury. If they are deemed by the court to be 50% or more at fault for the accident, then they will automatically forfeit their ability to recover compensation from the defendant for any expenses related to the incident.

UNDERSTANDING DAMAGES IN TRUCK ACCIDENT CASES

In the world of personal injury litigation, the term “damages” is used to describe the value of different items that were impacted by another party’s negligence after an accident. There are many different types of compensation that may be available to truck accident victims. Some of the most common types of compensation include:

- MEDICAL BILLS: You may be able to recover compensation for your medical expenses, including hospitalization, surgery, rehabilitation, and medication.
- LOST WAGES: If you are unable to work because of your injuries, you may be able to recover compensation for your lost wages.
- PAIN AND SUFFERING: You may be able to recover compensation for the physical pain and emotional suffering that you have endured as a result of your serious injuries from an accident.
- PROPERTY DAMAGE: If your vehicle was damaged in the accident, you may be able to recover compensation for the repairs.

The amount of compensation that you may be eligible to receive will depend on many factors, including the severity of your injuries and relative negligence of each party involved in the accident. An experienced personal injury attorney can help you understand the types of compensation that may be available to you and fight for the full amount of damages that you deserve.



4741 25th Ave  
Schiller Park, IL 60176

Phone: (773) 756-5999  
Fax: (773) 270-3908  
Email: Info@RoadKnights.us  
Website: www.roadknights.us



Truck drivers have loads of responsibility — the first and foremost is to follow trucking safety tips and regulations. Slow down, especially on corners and ramps. No load is worth your life or the life of others on the road.



# Hall of Fame - ROAD KNIGHTS

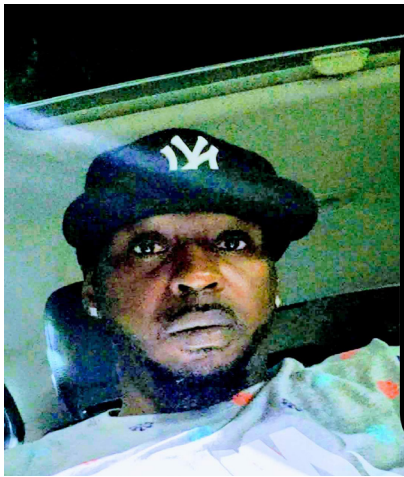
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” - Eleanor Roosevelt.



September



August



July



June



May



April



March



February



January



# Join Us!

DON'T MISS THE PROMO PERIOD, WE ARE LOOKING FOR CDL DRIVERS AND OWNER-OPERATORS



ROAD KNIGHTS IS OFFERING A REFERRAL BONUS FOR THOSE WHO BRING A NEW DRIVER.

IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO YOU THINK WOULD LIKE TO COME AND WORK WITH US, RECOMMEND ROAD KNIGHTS, AND GIVE THEM OUR CONTACT INFORMATION. THEY WOULD GET A GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND YOU WILL GET \$1,000 BONUS, \$500 AFTER 6 MONTHS AND ANOTHER \$500 AFTER A YEAR

Who are we?

We are a trucking company located in Chicago IL. Our company works with new equipment and well-maintained trucks and trailers. We have a very well organized 24 hour support. We take good care of our drivers, and look to build a lasting work relationship!

If you are a CDL driver and looking to become an Owner/Operator driving new or newer equipment, then look no further! Our team goes above and beyond to cater to each owner/operator's needs.

- We offer:**
- Trucks available: Peterbilt and Cascadias (2019 - 2023)
  - Trailers: Reefeer, Conestoga Flatbed, Regular Flatbed, Dry van (2020)



## WE ARE HIRING

## COMPANY DRIVERS

## OWNER OPERATORS





**(773) 756-5999 x138**

**recruiting@roadknights.us**

