



# TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION SAFETY TALKS

an initiative of the **TXOGA Workers' Compensation Safety Group**

## Long-Distance Travel

### *What this Safety Talk Covers:*

The “Dos” and “Don’ts” of safely traveling long distances for work.

### *Discussion Notes:*

Discuss the outcomes of the “Dos” and “Don’ts.”

- Do**
- ✓ Plan your route in advance and share your travel itinerary (including expected arrival times) with your supervisor or dispatcher before departing.
  - ✓ Take mandatory rest breaks during long drives to remote well sites or pipeline corridors. Fatigue is one of the leading causes of fatal incidents in the oilfield.
  - ✓ Keep your vehicle stocked with emergency supplies suited to the terrain: water, a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, flares, and a tow strap. Cell service is unreliable in many oilfield areas.
  - ✓ Check road and weather conditions before leaving. Gravel lease roads can deteriorate rapidly after rain or freeze-thaw cycles.
  - ✓ Use a satellite communicator or check-in protocol when traveling to locations outside reliable cell coverage.
  - ✓ Inspect your vehicle before departure, including tire pressure, fluid levels, lights, and four-wheel drive functionality — especially if you'll be traveling on unpaved field roads.
- Don't**
- x Drive through standing water on lease roads or near tank batteries. Flooding can wash out road surfaces suddenly, and water depth is difficult to judge on unpaved terrain.
  - x Skip your hours of service or driving time limits because of job pressure. Driving fatigued to make a call time or beat weather is a known risk factor for oilfield roadway fatalities.
  - x Leave a site without notifying someone of your departure, especially when traveling alone from a remote location.
  - x Haul oversized or overweight loads without proper permits, tie-downs, and a pre-trip inspection of your trailer and hitch.
  - x Rely solely on GPS in unfamiliar oilfield areas. Many lease roads, well pads, and pipeline ROW access routes are not accurately reflected in navigation systems.
  - x Drive distracted. Lease roads, refinery access routes, and field roads often have unexpected hazards like heavy equipment crossings, low-water crossings, and slow-moving trucks.





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## Employee Quiz Long-Distance Travel

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the correct answer below

1. Before departing for a long-distance trip, you should share your itinerary with:
  - a. Your family
  - b. Your supervisor or dispatcher
  - c. The company receptionist
  - d. Sharing your itinerary is unnecessary
2. Which of the following should not be relied on as your sole navigation tool?
  - a. A paper map from your company
  - b. Directions from your supervisor
  - c. A standard GPS mapping app
  - d. A route briefing from a coworker familiar with the area
3. Why is fatigue particularly dangerous for workers driving to a job site?
  - a. Oilfield roads have higher speed limits
  - b. Oilfield vehicles are harder to drive
  - c. Fatigue is not dangerous
  - d. Driving fatigued to meet call times or beat weather is a known risk factor for roadway fatalities
4. Which of the following is a recommended item to keep in your vehicle when traveling to remote locations?
  - a. A backup cell phone
  - b. Extra PPE for the job site
  - c. A fire extinguisher, tow strap, and flares
  - d. A printed copy of your employment contract
5. It is safe to drive through standing water on a lease road as long as the water doesn't appear to be moving.
  - a. True
  - b. False

**Training record:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Jobsite/Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_