

TASK FORCE TALK



DRIVER SAFETY - CONVOY

Category: *Ground Support - Safety*

Conoy driving is traditional method of transporting US&R Task Forces and Incident Support Team (IST) personnel responding to; working at; or returning home from a deployment. A convoy is typically referred to a group of vehicles traveling together for mutual support and protection. Although the United States Department of Transportation provides exceptions to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) rules governing the maximum hours of service for drivers. US&R personnel should follow three general safety concerns:

- *Safe Travel Routes* – Obtain real-time traffic information
- *Proper Vehicle Inspection/Secured Loads* – Pre-trip and safety spot checks
- *Reduce Fatigue Related Crashes* – improper work/rest cycles or driver rotations

Key Points:

The following key points are provided to reduce the probability of an accident from occurring:

- Pre-trip inspections and checking security of cargo while in transit
- Identify the travel routes based on traffic flow as well as known and predicted weather
- Establish common communications with all vehicles
- Monitor weather/road conditions/road closures
- Drive at a speed based on existing road conditions (traffic/weather)
- Maintain safe travel distances between vehicles
- Have an alternative plan if travel conditions change
- Ensure minimum of two qualified drivers per vehicle based on vehicle classification and GVW
- Establish driver rest stops not to exceed 4-hours of continuous driving
- Limit driver's to 14-hours daily with a minimum 10-hours of rest (FMCSA)
- STOP if:
 - Unable to concentrate on the road
 - Eyes are heavy – nodding off
 - Exceed recommended driving timeframes
 - Unsafe road conditions

The FMCSA provides additional information at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency and has established a toll free hotline number at 1-877-831-2250 for anyone seeking inquiries pertaining to FMCSA regulations during a declared disaster.

Please follow the key points and always Wear a Seat Belt!

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FEMA US&R Safety Unit Working Group | Email: FEMASafetyUnit@gmail.com
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References:

United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) – [Transportation Emergency Response Factsheet](#)

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