



CDL-A LESSON PLAN

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CLASSROOM LESSON 8

Unit 2.1 – Visual Search

Description: This lesson presents the reasons for learning and using advanced driving practices. Basic safety theory is discussed to demonstrate that highway crashes have definite causes. This lesson also introduces the four safe operating practices. Finally, there is a detailed explanation of visual search techniques for the driving environment. Classroom lecture and discussion will encourage trainee interaction and questions.

Standard: This lesson meets the Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI) Curriculum Standard Unit 2.1 - Visual Search (FMCSA Entry Level Driver Training regulation Unit A1.2.1).

Objectives:

1. Introduce the concept of crash causation and the most common causes of CMV crashes.
2. Introduce the four safe operating practices (visual search, vehicle communication, speed management and space management)
3. Explain the correct adjustments and use for various types of mirrors.
4. Explain the search patterns appropriate for straight driving, changing speed and direction, and entering or crossing traffic.
5. Explain the importance of visual searches in reducing fatigue and as critical techniques for monitoring changing road and traffic conditions.
6. Recognize potential hazards and know the indications and response towards drivers or pedestrians that are distracted.

Materials:

- Textbook – *Trucking: Tractor-Trailer Driver Handbook/Workbook* (or other appropriate textbook)
- Computer presentation (if applicable)
- Computer and projector (if applicable)
- Unit 2.1 Quiz.

Essential Learning Questions:

1. What are the most common causes of commercial vehicle crashes?
2. How can I use crash causation information to reduce the chance that I will be involved in a crash?
3. What are the four safe operating practices?
4. What is meant by the term “visual search?”

5. What method should a commercial driver use to visually search the driving environment?
6. Why are mirrors extra-important for safe operation of a truck and how are they used?
7. What are the potential hazards and know the indications and response towards drivers or pedestrians that are distracted?

Procedure:

1. Greet trainees and take attendance.
2. Present overview of Unit 2.
3. Use computer presentation and/or textbook to present basic safety theory by defining safety and defining highway accidents/crashes.
4. Use computer presentation and/or textbook to explain theory on accident causation.
 - a. Discussion points:
 - i. Unsafe acts can cause accidents.
 - ii. Unsafe mechanical conditions can cause accidents.
 - iii. An unsafe environment can cause accidents.
5. Use computer presentation and/or textbook to discuss the idea that, if you know what causes accidents, you know how to prevent them.
6. Use computer presentation and/or textbook to discuss accident prevention strategies.
 - a. Discussion points:
 - i. Safe operating practices—don't commit unsafe acts.
 - ii. Vehicle inspections—keep the mechanical condition of your vehicle safe.
 - iii. Unsafe environment—make allowances for the unsafe actions of others, unsafe highway conditions, and unsafe weather conditions.
7. Use computer presentation and/or textbook to introduce the safe operating practices of visual search, communication, space management, and speed management.
8. Use computer presentation and/or textbook to explain visual search practices in detail.
9. Administer Unit 2.1 Quiz.

Assessment: Formative assessment will be conducted informally through the use of strategic questioning (Essential Learning Questions) and answering throughout the lecture/discussion.

Summative assessment – Unit 2.1 Quiz.

Assignment: Read textbook chapter – Visual Search