

## CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK

### **Bridging the Jobsite and the Highway:** Technology's Role in Vocational Fleet Safety



For construction, energy, utility, and service fleets, safety goes beyond the driver's seat. It starts with visibility, planning, and the right tools to manage risk before the wheels even move.

In the world of vocational fleets, safety doesn't begin and end with a DOT inspection or a pre-trip walkaround. It begins at dispatch, follows the truck down unmarked access roads, and lives in every machine idling at a jobsite. From heavy construction to field service operations, the jobsite and the road aren't separate environments. They're two halves of the same challenge: keeping people safe, keeping equipment moving, and avoiding costly mistakes.

For construction, oil and gas, agriculture, utilities, and field tech fleets, vehicles are tools, not transportation. Welders, linemen, mechanics, and roughnecks often drive 33,000-pound service trucks not to haul freight, but to repair the machines that keep projects alive. These are non-traditional drivers who face traditional DOT obligations, and that's where compliance often gets blurry.

Fleet and safety managers must find a balance between regulatory demands and operational chaos. Whether it's operating under a 150-air-mile exemption or navigating a pipeline right-of-way, many workers don't see themselves as drivers. But the risks they face, distracted driving, maintenance failures, miscommunication, theft, and breakdowns, are all too real.

So how do you build safety into a system that wasn't built around driving?

#### **It starts with visibility**

When you're managing dozens or hundreds of assets across jobsites, mines, and rights-of-way, paper logs and spreadsheets won't cut it. Telematics, real-time GPS, and maintenance tracking software provide a single source of truth: where equipment is, how it's performing, and when it needs service.

With integrated fleet management technology, vocational fleets can:

- Monitor service intervals using mileage, engine hours, or custom PM triggers
- Complete real-time mobile inspections with photos and repair notes
- Track equipment to reduce theft, misuse, and downtime
- Detect unsafe driving or mechanical issues before they cause delays
- Provide proof of service and delivery for customers and project managers

Theft alone costs U.S. businesses an average of over \$120,000 per incident during peak seasons. Without GPS and asset tracking, a missing generator or misplaced service truck can shut down an entire operation.

## Operational continuity is safety

There is a tendency in safety to focus on driver behavior, such as speeding, cell phone use, and fatigue. And that matters. However, in construction and field work, safety also means ensuring that the right truck reaches the right job with the right tools at the right time. A failed service truck doesn't just delay a project; it also causes significant disruptions. It could create a chain reaction that exposes workers to risk or halts progress entirely.

Downtime is dangerous when a \$1.2 million excavator sits idle, waiting for parts, or a utility crew is exposed while waiting for a digger to arrive. Visibility into fleet movement and condition enables managers to intervene before a breakdown occurs.

## Modern tools for non-traditional fleets

For years, compliance was built for traditional long-haul operations. But construction and field service fleets don't follow the same playbook. Regulations still apply, but managing them requires more innovative tools, ones that cater to the unique demands of non-traditional drivers and operations.

Today's best systems combine mobile workflows, maintenance visibility, GPS tracking, and telematics into a single platform that works for everyone, from a CDL-holding mechanic to a dispatcher with hundreds of assets to schedule.

## As we recognize Construction Safety Week, it's time to remember that safety isn't a box to check. It's a system to build.

When tech supports compliance, automates maintenance, and gives jobsite visibility to office teams, safety becomes less reactive and more proactive. That's what keeps jobs moving. That's what protects lives, projects, and reputations.

And that's how vocational fleets win.



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