

# ToolBox Talks from the SWPA Safety Committee

## Pre-trip Inspections...

**It's the LAW...** No commercial motor vehicle shall be driven unless the driver thereof shall have satisfied himself that the following parts and accessories are in good working order.

**INSPECT it — LOG it** — So, what should a pre-trip inspection checklist include? Here are some of the most common items, record your inspections and save them. **It's your responsibility!**

**Inspect the engine compartment.**  Radiator  Air compressor  Steering gearbox  Steering linkage  
 Water pump  Alternator Belts  Houses & Wiring

**Inspect the fuel tank and battery.**  Visual check of your fuel tank and battery area to make sure nothing is cracked or leaking  Check battery levels to ensure you have enough starting power and charges are holding

**Inspect the fluids.**  Check for fluid leaks by looking under the truck for signs of fluid on the ground, including:  
 Fuel Oil  Coolant Power  Steering fluid  Brake fluid  Windshield washer fluid

**Inspect the brakes.**  A proper pre-trip inspection will include inspecting the brake system both in-cab and externally.  
 Check the brake adjustment with the slack adjuster for proper alignment  Check brake linings for appropriate thickness  Check air lines aren't damaged, don't leak, and are properly sealed  Brake checks should include air brakes, parking brakes, and hydraulic braking systems

**Inspect the tires.**  Tire tread for safe operation.  Check for cuts, bubbles, or gouges.  Check for foreign objects, such as stones or large debris, between the wheels and no space between tires and rims  Check & maintain the appropriate air pressure  Inspect the wheel lug nuts  Tighten any loose wheel fasteners

**Inspect the coupling system.**  Pay particular attention to your kingpin and the sliding fifth wheel locking pin  
 Apron  Electrical connections  Gap  Glad hands  Locking jaws  Mounting bolt  Platform  
 Release arm  Skid plate

**Inspect the lights and reflectors.**  Check that lights, warning lights, and turn signals are working properly, and lenses are clean for maximum visibility  Make sure your truck's reflectors are free of any dirt or debris, They should be intact without cracks, missing pieces, or peeling. Replace when needed.

**Inspect the trailer. Look for any mechanical defects.**  Headboard  Frame  Release pins  Crossmembers  
 Release handles  Locking pins  Doors and hinges

**Inspect the cab.**  Check seatbelts for any signs of wear or fray and ensure a snug fit.  Check your windshield wipers and horn  Check the operation and functionality of your inside and outside mirrors  Seat position,  Steering wheel, and pedals  Check windshield for cracks or chips  Perform a safe start to make sure lights and turn signals are working properly. This includes ABS lights and gauges.  Inspect the emergency kit  Check Fire Extinguisher, to make sure it is charged and secured  Warning devices for stopped vehicles, such as bidirectional reflective triangles



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Toolbox Talks are provided as a courtesy to SWPA members.  
Please remember they are to assist you in developing a safety plan.  
Keep in mind OSHA, Department of Labor and Insurance requirements  
may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety  
plan is up to date. Reference: Truckstop.com | GA Public Safety

