

MANAGING SPEED



At North American Transport Services, we care about your safety and every vehicle traveling around you. With heavy traffic and difficult weather conditions, driver's awareness becomes even more important. Speed is always a factor the driver can control and it either exposes or diminishes the driver to risks.

Everyone knows that the main reason drivers exceed speed limits is to save time but driving faster will not be able to save much time and you will spend more money on fuel, plus the risks involved are not worth it. If you go faster you'll have to keep passing other vehicles increasing your possibilities of a crash, and you'll get very stressed and tired. Remember, Fatigue increases the chance of a crash, so take it easy and be safe.

You should always be able to stop within the distance you can see ahead. If the weather conditions are bad and you're experiencing fog, rain, or snow you must slowdown to be able to stop. At night visibility is reduced, so be alert and slow down.

When you're driving in heavy traffic, you must drive defensively. People will cut you off, but you should never react negatively towards anyone. Use extra caution when you change lanes. Drive at the speed of the traffic, if you can without going at an illegal or unsafe speed and keep a safe following distance.

Keep in mind your vehicle's speed will increase on downgrades because of gravity. Don't ever let your truck roll down, shift your transmission to a low gear before starting down the grade and use that as the principal way of controlling your speed on downgrades saving your brakes for when you need them. Your goal as a professional driver is to select and maintain a speed that is not too fast for your gross total weight, the length and Steepness of the grade and the Weather. If a truck speed limit is posted indicating "Maximum Safe Speed," never exceed that speed.

