

STOPPING SAFELY DURING AN EMERGENCY

Even if you take all the proper safety precautions stopping on the side of the road, especially on the highways and interstates, tragic accidents can occur. Sudden breakdowns or an emergency creates a serious driving hazard. Road shoulders should be used for emergency stopping only. The best choice is to continue to the next exit that has a safe and legal area to park. Far too often, especially at night or when the other motorist is ill, fatigued or otherwise distracted, they may inadvertently follow your vehicle off the roadway not knowing you are stopping on the shoulder. **If you must stop on the shoulder, follow these safety precautions at a minimum:**

1

Pick a point where your vehicle will be visible. The primary factor for determining a stopping location is your safety and the safety of the other motorists. Before selecting your stopping location, scan the area ahead for at least the next mile. If there are challenges such as debris, bridges, construction, other stopped vehicles, curves in the road, hills, soft, slanted, uneven or narrow shoulders, proceed to a safer area if at all possible. Being visible and recognized as a stopped vehicle on the shoulder is critical to your safety as well as the safety of other motorists.

2

Pick your stopping point so that you also have plenty of room in front of you free of any challenges. You will need space to build a safe, legal speed before you merge back onto the roadway.

3

Signal your intentions before, during and after you pull over.

4

Pull your vehicle as far off the roadway as possible. Do not leave any part of your vehicle parked on the travel lane. However, to prevent potential rollover, do not pull onto grassy/dirt areas or other soft/dropping portions of the shoulder. Choose your spot wisely.

5

Place emergency warning devices around the truck as per company policy and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations 392.22.

6

Regardless if it is day or night, turn on your emergency 4-way flashers immediately.

7

If you must walk around your vehicle, always wear brightly colored/fluorescent and reflective clothing so you may be seen.

8

Call for assistance.

9

Constantly be aware of approaching traffic so you will not be struck.

