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**Channeling For Truckers - By Way Of The CB Radio, Of Course!**

**By Mike Dobson**

Ever wonder how some truck drivers just know what is going on out on the roads? How they just seem to know where the accidents and police are located? Thanks to CB radios, these truckers keep their finger on the pulse of all the action on the roads. They are channeling that information via the airwaves - via CB radios of course!

CB radios, also known as Citizen's Band radios, are the most reliable form of communication for these truckers. They maintain contact with their trucking company via CB radio. They get the latest trucking news via the airwaves. Sometimes, if truckers are on long hauls, they get lonesome for some conversation. CB radios keep those truck drivers in touch with the world. Depending on the area you drive, truckers might use different channels on the CB radio. The most common channel for chatter about trucking is Channel 19. A trucking company may keep in touch with their trucks out on the road via a special channel, but the Channel 19 is most commonly used between the truckers themselves.

If you are new driver for a trucking company, it might be a good idea to just listen to the conversations for awhile. You will notice that there are a lot of codes like "10-43" or "10-200." These two particular CB codes that truckers use stand for reporting a traffic problem or requesting police at a certain location. There are quite a few of these codes and it could take a while to figure them all out. So unless you greenhorn truckers enjoy major razzing by the more seasoned truck drivers, it will pay off to learn the ins and outs of this CB language before adding your two cents in.

CB radios are a handy tool, not only for the trucking company trying to stay in touch with their drivers, but also for those truckers who just need to fill in that quiet time on the roads. Important trucking news is often relayed via the airwaves as well as potential road hazards and even calls of help from other lost truckers (of course, those are the newbies!). A trucker belongs to an exclusive group - a group that provides a valuable service all over the country. Without CB radios to communicate, their world inside that truck cab would be a silent one.

Mike Dobson is the creator of

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## **Unspoken Rules Of The Road For Truckers**

**By Mike Dobson**

Many truckers seem like they belong to a secret society and part of that membership consists of various courtesies and unspoken rules of the road. Trucking companies are privy to those rules, but don't always let the newbies know about them. Those new truck drivers get to learn the hard way. But if they are lucky, veteran truckers will give them a probationary pass to the secret society. Membership has its privileges!

Unspoken Rule #1 - Acknowledging other truckers in this secret society. Common courtesy on the roads is a little thing, but can pay off big if you are ever in the need of some assistance. CB radios are often used to recognize other truckers and even a friendly wave does the trick. Unspoken Rule #2 - Passing the pavement. Sometimes on busy roads, truckers may not be able to keep an eye on all of the traffic around them. Fellow truckers traveling in other lanes will often flash their lights or make contact by CB radio to tell another truck when they have safely passed another vehicle and it is all right to switch lanes.

Unspoken Rule #3 - Know the code. If you want to communicate with other members of this secret society, you have to have a CB radio. And with that CB radio, comes responsibilities and codes used when talking on the radio. Things like letting other truckers know where all the police speed traps are or if there are any accidents to possibly avoid are among the duties in this secret society.

Unspoken Rule #4 - Headlight Headaches. Another unspoken common courtesy that truckers will extend to other trucks has to do with headlights. Stopping for any length of time, whether at a weigh station or a fuel stop, truckers will often turn off the headlights and put on their blinking hazard lights. Those headlights are very bright and can easily blind another driver at an inappropriate moment and can be a potential hazard.

There are many other small courtesies that truck drivers extend to one another. As newbies establish themselves with their trucking companies, the die hard truckers will eventually take pity on them and let them know the ins and outs of their "Secret society." Some of these rules may be unspoken ones, but they sure do pave the way for a more enjoyable trucking experience. Now all these truckers need is a secret handshake!

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