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**Techie Truckers**

**By Mike Dobson**

Not only do truckers drive on the open roads but they also travel down the information super

highway! Technology gives truckers a big boost in many areas and has made life a lot easier or at least more tolerable when they are away from home.

Trucking software makes all the bookkeeping and paperwork easier to handle and stay organized. Laptop computers help with keeping in touch with family, friends and even the trucking company they work for. Cell phones and satellite radio help keep an ear open to the world beyond the road well-traveled.

Let's talk some more about these technological tools for truckers these days. Trucking companies are installing more and more Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in their trucks. These little technological wonders are great in providing detailed directions, down to the last turn. However, they are only as good as the trucking software that goes with it. Road conditions, traffic and detours are not updated often enough so truckers run into occasional problems when using their GPS. Overall though, they are worth the expense.

Laptops are more common place these days with truckers. After all, with the internet and email, communication with friends, family and their trucking company is all at their fingertips. And with wireless broadband (Wi-Fi) access popping up in truck stops, truckers can touch base more often, which makes being on the road for days at a time a little more bearable. Other things that truckers can do, thanks to the laptop computer and wireless broadband access, is check their bank account information online as well as the weather and the latest breaking news happening around the country.

Other techie stuff that makes life for truck drivers a little easier is the trucking software that tracks each tank of fuel consumed as well as the mileage and driving hours. This trucking software also can keep track of loads of cargo that has been picked up or dropped off. Different programs will do different things, depending on what the trucker wants it to do.

Today's techie truckers kick that stereotypical "bubba" persona to the curb. To function in today's society; you cannot get away from technology. It is everywhere, from the fuel pumps to the ATM

machines. These days, truckers are embracing that technology and using it for their own purposes.

Mike Dobson is the creator of

<http://www.truckingbuddy.com>

which is currently the web's most

comprehensive trucking resource. Visit

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today.

## **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.

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