



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rand McNally Shares Holiday Stories from the Road** *Commercial drivers experience Christmas miracles from coast-to-coast*

**SKOKIE, Ill., Dec. 20, 2013** – If it's under the tree, chances are a professional truck driver made it possible. And while drivers ensure that we have our gifts and goodies, [Rand McNally](#) wondered how they spend their time during the holidays.

In a survey of professional truck drivers, more than 800 told us how they celebrate the holiday season while on the road, how they navigate more complicated roadways at this time, and how they deal with long stretches away from home.

[Rand McNally](#) recognizes that delivering on time and safely during the busiest travel and shopping season of the year is often fraught with extra stresses. Drivers reported that:

- More than 50% are on the road, away from their families for the holidays
- 29% decorate their trucks to help keep the season bright
- Traffic, weather, and distracted holiday drivers are especially troublesome this time of year, with 72% listing at least one of these as concerns
- They enjoy connecting with friends and family via Skype and cell phone, but often spend holidays with other truckers in the truck stops.

Drivers explained that although there are ways to connect and celebrate with family when you are away for the holidays, the most memorable moments are often shared with strangers.

“Thanksgiving week I parked and noticed a vehicle and its occupants paying more attention to my rig than I was comfortable with, so I got out and stood in front of the truck with my arms folded watching them watch me. The driver pulled closer revealing a very excited two-and-a-half year old. His grandpa told me, ‘He LOVES BIG TRUCKS’. For the next fifteen minutes grandpa, grandma, his mommy and daddy enjoyed family time in my truck taking pictures laughing—all sharing an experience that makes the long lonely days of what I do, worth it!” shared Doug, from Columbia City, Ind.

Often drivers are called upon, and willingly offer, to assist in an emergency. John of Daytona Beach, Fla. is a retired paramedic. On one run during the holidays, he came upon a car crash with a passenger in labor. “After I checked on her, I saw we only had a few minutes before the baby was born, and I let her know we were having this Christmas Eve baby right here. She gave birth to a beautiful little girl - Crystal Marrie, 8 lbs. 9 oz.”

Sometimes, drivers are witness to a certain miracle. Jeff from Idaho Falls, Idaho thought he'd seen a disaster unfold before him. “An SUV went off the road in front of me in Idaho one winter night and rolled three times. I didn't think anyone would survive but to my surprise and joy when I got to the car there were two college girls seat-belted upside down in the vehicle without a scratch on them. They were sisters on their way home for Christmas break. We got them out and kept them warm until the police and their parents arrived. It was definitely a miracle that they both survived.”

Miracles can also be found in the simple and unexpected. “There is so much beauty in our country. Getting in to Salt Lake City, Utah seeing the mountains covered with beautiful snow is something that I will never forget,” said Salvador, of Laredo, Texas.

Finally, drivers described numerous examples of holiday generosity – both extended by them and received. Stories included strangers paying for dinner, gas, or holiday gifts; helping stranded motorists and stressed out families.

To read more stories from the road, or share your own, visit

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