

# Unimark News



# **A message from Unimark President, Mike Smith**



**Hope everyone is doing well and had a wonderful holiday season. It's hard to believe we are already in 2026 and that 2025 passed so quickly. While 2025 was a challenging year, perhaps it was a small blessing that it moved as fast as it did.**

**We did, unfortunately, lose two valued team members last year—Rod Rife and Ray Danninburger. Both will be greatly missed, and we appreciate the contributions they made to our team.**

**I would like to thank all of you for the excellent work in accident reduction and cargo claims. The installation of 360-degree cameras on the lowboys has been a significant help in identifying surrounding traffic issues and reducing sideswipe incidents. We are currently testing improved systems, including forward-facing cameras for drive-away units, to help eliminate “he said, she said” situations should an accident occur.**

**We must continue to focus on improving all aspects of safety, including logs, maintenance, and the use of Smith training, to remain as accident-free as possible. After 21 years in the trucking industry, I have seen many changes, and safety remains the number-one priority—not only to keep our business running, but also to protect your CDL and livelihood.**

**Looking ahead to 2026, the first quarter is expected to be slow overall. However, we anticipate an increase in Hino and Isuzu volumes as they approach their year-end push. Additionally, the new lowboy work in Gaffney should help keep drivers loaded and earning consistently. As the year progresses, forecasts for the second half remain mixed. As we receive more information from the OEMs, we will be sure to share updates with you.**

**The first two months of the year are already booked. We will also be opening the new ULB terminal in Gaffney, hiring lowboy drivers for that work, and relocating the Joplin office. The primary reason for the move is cost reduction and improving efficiency in getting drivers in and out of the Joplin area when hiring resumes.**

**Thank you for your time, dedication, and hard work. Let's make 2026 the best year possible.**

**Thanks,  
Mike**

# A Message from Vice President, Stephanie Johnston



## **New Year, New Goals: Setting Resolutions That Matter**

The start of a new year is a great opportunity to pause, reflect, and set intentions for the months ahead. While New Year's resolutions often focus on personal habits, they can also be a powerful way to grow professionally and strengthen our workplace as a whole.

As you think about your goals for the year, consider resolutions that support both your well-being and your career. This might mean developing a new skill, improving time management, prioritizing work-life balance, or finding more opportunities to collaborate and share ideas with your team. Even small, consistent changes can lead to meaningful progress over time.

We also encourage setting realistic and flexible goals. Resolutions don't have to be all-or-nothing—progress is built step by step. Check in with yourself throughout the year, celebrate milestones, and adjust your goals as needed.

As a company, we're committed to supporting your growth by providing resources, learning opportunities, and a culture that values continuous improvement. Together, by aligning personal goals with team and company objectives, we can make this year productive, rewarding, and fulfilling.

Here's to a new year of growth, motivation, and shared success.



**Bennie Aikens  
Christopher Bratton  
Willie Brothers  
Brad Cabrera  
David Calleri  
O'Neil Davis  
George DeBoard  
Alan Draper  
Shamon Duncan  
Ruben Elenes  
Ishmael Gatewood**

**Maurice Gray  
Jarrod Hammonds  
Robert Hartman  
Michael Hatala  
Jason Hutchins  
La Sharon Jennings  
Aboubacar Kabore  
David Kunkel  
Alex Ledvin  
Gavin MacEwen  
Andrew McDaniel**

**Mike McGillan  
Alfredo Morales  
Craig Petzold  
Gregory Pomraning  
Stanley Russell  
Cristian Sanchez  
Thomas Schulz  
Andrew Short  
Greg Silvis  
Willie Townsel  
Homer Wood**

# Message from Alex Andrade: Director of Operations – Unimark Truck Transport

## **Looking Ahead to Another Successful Year**

As we begin a new year, all of us at Unimark Truck Transport want to take a moment to thank our entire team—our drivers and office staff alike—for their hard work and dedication. We hope everyone enjoyed a safe, restful, and meaningful holiday season with family and loved ones.

Looking forward, we are excited about what the coming year holds and the opportunities ahead. Our success continues to be driven by the professionalism, commitment, and teamwork demonstrated across every part of our operation.

As always, safety remains our top priority. Whether transporting vehicles or performing the undecking process, staying focused, following proper procedures, and taking the time to do the job correctly is critical to protecting our people, our customers, and our company.

With winter weather affecting many of our routes, we also want to remind everyone to remain especially cautious while driving. Please allow for extra stopping distance, reduce speeds as conditions require, avoid sudden braking or sharp turns, and remain alert for ice, snow, and changing road conditions. When in doubt, slow down or stop and communicate with dispatch—no load is worth risking your safety.

Thank you for the pride you take in your work and for representing Unimark Truck Transport with integrity every day. We look forward to another year of working together, staying safe, and continuing to move forward successfully.

## **DRIVER SPOTLIGHT: A DECADE WITH UNIMARK – MEET FRED CORLEY**

Fred grew up in East Central Florida, spending much of his early life in the construction industry. His father was a contractor, and building homes became a natural part of his upbringing. But when the 2006 subprime banking crisis brought residential construction to a standstill, Fred faced a major career crossroads. With determination and an eagerness to carve out a new path, he enrolled at TDI Truck Driver Institute in Sanford, Florida in 2007 and completed an intensive three-week training program that launched the career he still enjoys today.

His first professional driving role was with Stevens Transport in Dallas, Texas, where he completed his OTR training. By 2010, Fred had transitioned to Wind Hill Transportation in Marshfield, Wisconsin hauling paper products out of Wisconsin and tropical plants out of Florida to major retail garden centers such as Walmart, Lowe's, and Home Depot. His dedication and professionalism quickly earned him a trainer position, guiding new drivers fresh out of school.

In July 2015, Fred began a new chapter with Unimark. After years of seeing piggyback trucks across the country and speaking with drivers from several companies, he applied to Unimark and was hired. His orientation date—July 20, 2015—marks the start of what he proudly calls the best job of his driving career. His trainer, Manuel, taught him the ropes on Hino and Freightliner units, and both remain with the company today.

Over the past ten years, Fred has become one of our experienced and respected trainers, spending nine of those years helping new drivers master the unique skillset of the driveaway industry.

What sets Unimark apart for him? Predictability, work-life balance, and the ability to go home whenever needed. After years of sleeping in a truck on traditional OTR routes, Fred appreciates that hotel rest is the standard here—making life on the road safer and more comfortable. While the work is straightforward once learned, Fred says the biggest challenge can be the occasional extreme weather during undecking. Even so, he emphasizes how rewarding and stable the role has been. Through tough industry moments and shifting conditions, Unimark has remained a place where he feels supported, respected, and able to thrive.

Outside of work, Fred spends his free time enjoying one of the greatest perks of East Central Florida living—fishing the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. Whether he’s chasing redfish and snook inshore or heading offshore for bigger catches, fishing is his favorite way to unwind and stay connected to the coastal lifestyle he loves.



## **Congratulations to Our Drivers!**

Clean DOT Roadside Inspections – 3rd Quarter

We are proud to recognize the outstanding performance of the following drivers who achieved Clean DOT Roadside Inspections during the 3rd Quarter. Your commitment to safety and compliance sets the standard for excellence in our fleet.

✅ Brad Banner

✅ Treig Meisenheimer

✅ Aboubacar Kabore

Your attention to detail and dedication to safe operations help keep our roads secure and Unimark's reputation strong. Thank you for your hard work and professionalism!

Safety at Unimark is everyone's responsibility—thank you for leading by example!

# HAZARDS OF WINTER WEATHER AND ICY CONDITIONS



Winter weather creates dangerous driving conditions for commercial motor vehicles. Please keep these safety tips in mind:

**Reduce Speed:** Slippery roads increase stopping distance. Slow down and maintain control.

**Increase Following Distance:** Allow extra space between vehicles to prevent collisions.

**Avoid Sudden Maneuvers:** Gentle braking and steering reduce the risk of skidding.

**Check Equipment:** Ensure tires, brakes, and lights are in top condition before departure.

**Stay Alert:** Watch for black ice, snow drifts, and changing weather conditions.

**Plan Ahead:** Monitor weather reports and adjust routes as needed.

Your safety and the safety of others depend on your vigilance. Drive cautiously and make winter safety a priority!



## **New Year's Traditions Around the World**

The arrival of the New Year is celebrated across cultures with traditions that reflect hope, renewal, and good fortune. While the date may be the same, the ways people welcome the New Year are wonderfully diverse.

In many countries, the celebration begins at midnight with fireworks and countdowns, symbolizing a fresh start. Making New Year's resolutions is a common tradition, especially in Western cultures, where people set personal goals for self-improvement in the year ahead.

Food plays an important role in New Year's customs. In Spain and several Latin American countries, people eat twelve grapes at midnight, one for each stroke of the clock, to bring luck for the coming months. In the southern United States, dishes like black-eyed peas are believed to symbolize prosperity, while in Japan, eating long soba noodles represents longevity.

Other traditions focus on clearing the past to make room for the future. In some cultures, people clean their homes before New Year's Day to sweep away bad luck. In parts of South America, wearing brightly colored clothing—especially yellow—is thought to attract happiness and success.

Despite their differences, New Year's traditions share a common purpose: to mark the passage of time with optimism and unity. They remind us that each new year offers a chance to begin again, carrying hope for better days ahead.



## UNIMARK LOG VIOLATIONS – 3RD QUARTER

First, a big shout-out to all our drivers regarding the continued steady decrease in log violations. Our overall violation rate is 1.4%!! While we have seen a drop in overall log violation rates, Load Number Missing or Incorrect violation continues to be one of the top violations across all three Unimark divisions. This issue impacts compliance and can lead to costly penalties.

### **Why It's Important**

DOT inspections and audits require accurate documentation. Incorrect or missing load numbers can result in violations and fines. Accuracy reflects professionalism and protects our company's safety record.

### **What You Need to Do**

#### **Double-check your logs before signing.**

Verify that the **Load Number** is entered correctly and matches your paperwork.

Ensure all other required fields are complete and accurate.



Your attention to detail helps maintain compliance and keeps our operations running smoothly. Thank you for doing your part to uphold Unimark's safety and integrity!

# WINTER SAFETY ALERT

## Stay Safe in Extreme Cold Conditions

As winter weather intensifies, everyone faces not only hazardous roads but also serious health risks from frostbite and hypothermia. Protect yourself while performing duties outside your vehicle or outdoors.



### Frostbite Prevention

- **Dress in Layers:** Wear thermal undergarments, insulated jackets, and windproof outerwear.
- **Protect Extremities:** Insulated gloves, thick socks, waterproof boots, and a hat or hood.
- **Limit Exposure:** Complete outdoor tasks in short intervals and return to warmth often.
- **Stay Dry:** Wet clothing accelerates heat loss—keep gloves and boots dry.



### Hypothermia Prevention

- **Know the Signs:** Shivering, confusion, slurred speech, and fatigue are early indicators.
- **Stay Warm:** Keep heated, and avoid prolonged exposure to cold.
- **Eat and Hydrate:** Warm meals and fluids help maintain body temperature.
- **Emergency Action:** If symptoms occur, get to a warm environment immediately and seek medical attention.

**Remember: Your safety is our priority. Stay alert, dress appropriately.**



## Cardinal Rules

1. Safety is our highest priority. If it is not safe, do not do it. Stop, and call for help.
2. Seatbelts must always be worn while operating any vehicle, to ensure safety and compliance with federal, state, local, and company regulations.
3. All required PPE will be worn while operating any vehicle, to ensure safety and compliance with federal, state, local, and company regulations.
4. Every time you enter or exit a truck, 3-points of contact must be used.
5. Every time you exit a truck, take the keys with you, and chock the tires.
6. Never undeck a truck using a forklift(s).
7. Never walk or work under a freely suspended truck.
8. If a manual hoist is, or becomes, difficult to operate, STOP and call your manager.
9. Never lift, drag, flip, or carry a saddle
10. Only remove/move saddles by mechanical means (forklift, hoist, or wrecker).
  - a. If a wrecker is used, do not pay the bill until saddles are removed and stowed.
11. When parking overnight, always pull the ignition fuse of the lead truck and take all keys to all units with you.
12. Cell phone use, including hands-free devices, is prohibited while driving, decking, or undecking.
13. Compliance with DOT Hours-of-Service regulations is mandatory.
14. Performing U-turns are prohibited. Find a legal alternate way to turn around.
15. Unauthorized passengers and personal use of our customer's trucks is prohibited.
16. Respect and prioritize our customers - they are the reason we exist:
  - a. Never engage in discourteous or unprofessional manner
  - b. Meet your ETAs
  - c. Call 24 hours prior to delivery
  - d. Never smoke, eat, sleep, or drink in trucks
  - e. Leave undecking facility clean and organized