

6/9/13

Met Frank at 10:45a at Joplin local. Off loaded my personal gear. Did a pre-trip...saw previous trailer damage and some tire issues, but not enough to warrant taking to the shop. We then went to local to get our trip assignment. Got off the yard about 1155. We took off on I44 East. Stopped at Dottie's in Cuba...great buffet...had an awesome coconut cream pie and coffee compliments of the chef . Ate too much (Now I see why it is hard to eat properly on the road – especially this being my first day). Back in the truck after our break and on the road again. Had to take student pre-test...managed to get 100% after some help from Frank. Not much happening on the road until before St. Louis with a traffic back up...car accident in right hand lane...lots of funny chatter on the CB...back full speed again...and here we go again with another traffic delay..another accident in the two right hand lanes...almost cleaned up. Went through downtown St. Louis to cut time off our trip. We were hoping to get to Consignee by end of available hours. Smooth sailing...storm clouds up ahead...hopefully will not hit. Unfortunately 30 miles west of Terre Haute we started to hit rain. Rain started to get heavier. We slowed down, but several trucks came flying by. Now rain so heavy that we can't see...hazard flashers on. Frank decided that it was not safe to continue to drive through the storm and we had to shut down for the night at exit 41 Cloverdale. We had hoped to make it to consignee by the end of our hours. We still could have driven another 2 hours plus, but couldn't safely. We arrived at Cloverdale...Frank pulled between two other units....tight squeeze...he is good. Shut the truck off...did our end of day stuff and sent messages. Frank called ops and made them aware that we would be late to the customer. Spoke to Tammy, didn't wait long about 8 minutes on hold before speaking with her. Truck next to us idling. Went into the truck stop to use the restroom. It continued to rain hard ...got back to the truck...climbed into the bunk, changed, got my earplugs out...good thing. The idling truck next to us idled all night...very loud. It was my first night sleeping in a truck. It is warm in the truck, but cooled off sometime during the night. It is now almost 2300. Long day. Needless to say, I couldn't exercise today. We ran 483 miles and didn't see any customers. We drove 8 hours and 11 minutes.

**Thanks, Bert
VP, HR**

