



*How to protect*

# **YOUR PEOPLE, PROPERTY AND PROFITABILITY WITH A WIRELESS FLEET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**



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## Fleet Risk Management

Implementing a GPS fleet management system can lead to reduced risk and more control over fleet performance while helping to protect your people, assets, and bottom line.

Managing risk is part of operating any business. It's also a smart way to lower costs and boost profitability. If you operate a fleet of vehicles, you can reduce the risks to your organization by implementing a GPS fleet management solution to continually monitor vehicle and driver performance – gaining more control over fleet performance while helping to protect your people, assets, and bottom line.

For fleet-based organizations, risk can come in many forms. Your business might suffer financial loss due to damaged, destroyed, or stolen vehicles and equipment. Accidents can harm company drivers and other motorists, which can lead to workers compensation and medical claims or personal injury lawsuits. You may even face risk to your revenues and reputation, as damaged, stolen, or improperly used vehicles prevent you from serving customers in a timely and efficient manner.

Managing these threats begins with having a clear understanding of your fleet's specific risk exposures and a commitment to operating safe, well-maintained vehicles. These, in turn, must be supported by an ongoing education and training program that rewards drivers for practicing safe driving habits. Monitoring and measuring vehicle performance and driver behaviors with a GPS tracking system provides the data to successfully implement these strategies and helps reduce the risks to your fleet.

### FIVE STEPS TO MANAGING FLEET RISK

#### 1. Improve Safety

Speeding wastes fuel, increases the risk of accidents, and can lead to other behaviors that put your drivers and vehicles at risk. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, aggressive driving – including speeding – can lower highway fuel mileage by 33 percent and city mileage by five percent <sup>1</sup>.

To reduce speeding, you first need to know when and where your drivers are doing it. A fleet tracking system reveals this information by monitoring the speed and location of every vehicle, at all times. It also comes with customizable alert and reporting features that provide the data required to effectively coach or discipline drivers and bring them into alignment with company policies.

For example, alerts notify you in real time when speeding incidents occur. You determine the alert criteria, such as speed thresholds, time of day, type of vehicle, etc., and the system automatically sends a text or e-mail alert when a violation occurs. Speeding reports also provide detailed and summary data on all speed-related incidents. The reports can be scheduled for automated delivery on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis, allowing you to identify current violations as well as month-by-month trends in driver behavior.

And speeding isn't the only driver behavior that increases risk. Drivers that don't wear their seat belts endanger themselves. Those that frequently engage in hard acceleration and braking imperil other vehicles as well. Reduce these and other risks by using fleet management system data to create incentive programs that reward employees for driving slower and safer.

#### 2. Limit Unnecessary Driving

It's a simple numbers game – drive fewer miles and your fleet is exposed to fewer risks. With a wireless fleet management system, you can reduce unnecessary driving by routing vehicles more efficiently, tracking their locations, monitoring off-hours usage, and using Garmin® connection capabilities to communicate accurate directions to your drivers. You can also use a variety of reports to monitor and manage vehicle utilization that show:

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- **The daily start and end location of every vehicle.** With this data, you can confidently allow drivers to take their vehicles home at night, knowing you can easily identify any unauthorized use.
- **Vehicle usage outside of normal business hours.** Tracking odd-hours movement can help reduce theft and unauthorized employee use.
- **Vehicles entering or exiting an “off-limits” area.** Access to this information helps deter unauthorized trips, such as going home for lunch or running personal errands.

### 3. Reduce Vehicle Breakdowns

Poorly maintained vehicles can become increasingly unsafe to drive. A telematics fleet management system with engine diagnostic capabilities can help reduce vehicle breakdowns while making it easier and more cost-effective to keep your fleet in a well-maintained operating condition.

Without remote diagnostic capabilities, potential problems – such as engine malfunctions or bad brakes – can be difficult to spot. Drivers may hesitate to report problems for fear their vehicle will be taken out of service. With a fleet management system, you can reduce the risks related to malfunctioning or poorly maintained vehicles in several important ways:

- **Monitor diagnostic trouble codes.** Get advance warning of engine trouble, allowing you to fix minor problems before they become potentially dangerous ones.
- **Receive regular odometer alerts.** Set proactive reminders for oil changes, tune-ups, and other preventive maintenance activities to keep vehicles in safe running condition.
- **Continuously track emission levels.** Monitor excessive emissions to identify potentially undiagnosed engine problems.

Your fleet management system will also provide comprehensive service record reports. These allow you to maintain fleet health and help extend the life of your vehicles for cost savings and safe operation. And when drivers know about a problem ahead of time, they can decrease their own downtime by having the vehicle serviced when not scheduled for use.

### 4. Protect Against Vehicle Theft

Monitoring the location of your fleet around the clock won't prevent vehicle theft. But it can help deter it by immediately alerting you to suspicious vehicle movement. It can also help to retrieve stolen vehicles by enabling you to provide police departments with a van or truck's precise location the moment you realize it's been stolen.

To help reduce the risk of theft, a fleet management system can notify you the instant a vehicle is used during a prohibited time frame. Other features, such as geofence alerts, can identify unauthorized movement by indicating when vehicles enter or exit pre-determined geographic boundaries. The system then sends notifications to managers in the office or in the field, who can receive them via PCs, smartphones, and other mobile devices.

### 5. Protect Drivers Against False Claims

Although rare, false claims against drivers represent a tangible risk for fleet-centered organizations. A driver might be falsely accused of speeding in a school zone. A customer might complain they didn't receive a delivery on time. Another customer might accuse a service technician of over-charging by falsifying the amount of time spent at the location. In some cases, drivers might be blamed for causing an accident they weren't even part of. GPS vehicle tracking can help reduce these risks by providing the precise speed and location of every vehicle in your fleet.

Using a feature called the “Vehicle Track Map,” you can pinpoint the precise location and behavior of any vehicle in your fleet at a specific date and time. This map displays the speed and heading of the vehicle, as well as the ignition status and closest street address.

You can also use the system's landmarks feature to help protect drivers. This feature provides a historical record of when vehicles visited designated landmarks, allowing you to verify the specific location of a vehicle for a selected date and time range.

Managing risk starts with a clear understanding of your fleet's specific risk exposures and a commitment to operating safe, well-maintained vehicles.

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Ultimately, risk management comes down to reducing your exposures by increasing driver awareness, reducing risky driving behaviors, and promoting safer ones.

#### CONTACT US

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#### REDUCING RISK IN YOUR ORGANIZATION

Ultimately, risk management comes down to reducing your exposures by taking steps to increase driver awareness, reduce risky driving behaviors, and promote safer ones. That's where implementing a proven GPS fleet tracking system like Verizon Networkfleet makes the difference. Networkfleet® gives you the power to reduce speeding incidents, curtail unnecessary driving, limit unauthorized use, and keep vehicles in safe operating condition – helping you significantly reduce risk to your fleet and the costs that go along with it.

Mitigating risk saves time and money. It helps make your fleet more efficient and productive. It better protects your drivers. And it can even save lives. To learn more about how Networkfleet can help reduce risk in your organization, visit [networkfleet.com](http://networkfleet.com) or contact us at 1.866.869.1353.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Energy: Driving More Efficiently; [www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml)

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