

Worksheet 7: Vehicle Readiness Checklist

Arkansas tornado season (peak: April-May) and brutal summers require year-round vehicle readiness. AC maintenance is non-negotiable. Rural route capability matters between major markets.

DAILY PRE-SHIFT CHECK

- ☐ Fuel level — minimum half tank (Little Rock to NWA is 200 miles)
- ☐ AC functioning — non-negotiable April through October in Arkansas
- ☐ Waze loaded and updated — check I-40, I-49, I-630, I-430 incidents
- ☐ Phone fully charged + car charger connected
- ☐ Proof of insurance accessible (glove box)
- ☐ COI (Certificate of Insurance) PDF saved on phone
- ☐ Weather check — tornado season (April-May peak): NWS Little Rock (weather.gov/lzk) or NWS Tulsa (weather.gov/tsa) for NWA
- ☐ Water and snacks for long inter-city runs

WEEKLY CHECK

- ☐ AC system functioning — refrigerant, compressor, cabin filter
- ☐ Tire pressure (heat expands tires — check cold pressure in AR summer)
- ☐ Coolant / radiator fluid level (AR heat stresses cooling systems)
- ☐ Suspension check — rural Arkansas roads between markets can be rough
- ☐ Waze updated
- ☐ Vehicle interior clean and professional
- ☐ COI / insurance documents current

TORNADO SEASON CHECKLIST (April – May Peak / March – November)

- ☐ NWS Little Rock (weather.gov/lzk) or NWS Tulsa (weather.gov/tsa) bookmarked
- ☐ NOAA Weather Radio or weather alert app (NWA: Tulsa NWS; Central AR: Little Rock NWS)
- ☐ Emergency kit in vehicle: water, flashlight, first aid, phone charger
- ☐ Client communication plan — know who to call if a tornado watch delays deliveries
- ☐ Know shelter locations along your regular routes

SUMMER HEAT PROTOCOL (May – September)

- ☐ Personal hydration — minimum 1 gallon water per operating day
- ☐ Temperature-sensitive cargo: pharmaceuticals / biologicals need active cooling in AR summers
- ☐ Schedule outdoor stops for early morning or late afternoon when possible
- ☐ Know signs of heat exhaustion — dizziness, nausea, heavy sweating

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