DEADHEAD AND PREDISPATCH

Other dispatch functions that are very helpful as you track your equipment and drivers are deadhead and predispatch. First we will look at deadhead. TMS Digital Dispatch already keeps track of your empty miles automatically when you load the truck or driver by taking their current location and putting the miles on the first pickup in the empty miles section. But what if the driver has an emergency and has to go home during the middle of the week instead of coming back to the yard. You still need to keep track of those miles. You might even have a situation where you need to also pay the driver for those miles. Here is where we will use a deadhead trip. From either the truck or driver screen click on the Deadhead button.

Here you will fill out where the driver is going and the empty miles used to get there. Click OK to save and the system creates a trip to record the movement and allow you to settle and pay the truck or driver if necessary.

If desired you can view this trip by going to Trips on the Operations Menu. Here is what your deadhead trip looks like.

Predispatching is another useful tool that allows you to pre-plan your loads and equipment movements. You can even predispatch more than one load on a driver or truck. When you click the predispatch action button a pop up will show you any other loads that are already predispatched.

The Predispatch button is a toggle so that you can also UNpredispatch if you made an mistake. The predispatch column will show an asterick if there are any loads predispatched to that driver or truck.

The callin browser will show a line for each load predispatched. While we are here in the Call-in screen let's take a quick look at the buttons available to us.

Most of these are shortcuts to functions we can do on the load and trip screens or the driver and truck screens. We can view load notes or load details. We can edit the load and/or trip directly from the Call-in screen. We can view images or notes. We can see at a glance if the driver or truck has any expired or soon to expire item. In this example the driver has an expired physical as see in RED. His license is due to expire soon as seen in GREEN. If all of the information is current there are no colors. There is also an area to view any notes and messages.

We can start an accident record with the quick accident button. The record can then be filled out in detail later from the accident browser. Please see our detailed Accident and Incident video for further information and details.

As you can see the Call-in screen is a handy "dashboard" for the driver or truck!