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Attacks on vehicles and drivers are a worrying factor (photograph courtesy of NS FRITS)

Freight crime causing concern

Within the UK an estimated 40,000 truck crimes occur annually and in excess of £500 million worth of trucks and goods are stolen. According to Truckpol more than 3,000 trucks are stolen each year and never recovered. On another level, costs relating to cargo theft in the European Union are estimated to have reached a staggering €8.2 billion per year.

In recent articles for *Freight Industry Times*, Detective Constable Alan Soames, Truckpol's Intelligence Officer, highlighted the fact that each

instance of freight crime in the UK averages a loss of more than £25,000. He also suggested that companies are faced with not only with losing money but also the trust of clients and potential future contracts.

DC Soames further questioned the lack of safety measures in place at many transport depots, citing a lack of visible security as a source of encouragement for criminals. In order to make the most of the different methods and systems available and make a site secure, he advises haulage and logistics companies to visit the crime prevention section on the Truckpol website (www.truckpol.com) or get in touch with their local crime prevention officer.

In a similar vein, leading transport lawyer Anton Balkitis, of Nottingham-based solicitors Rothera Dowson, is urging commercial vehicle drivers to take more personal responsibility to avoid attacks on themselves and their vehicles. The advice comes after the law firm noted increasing attacks on drivers and their vehicles including thefts, freight robberies and personal attacks – experiences of which have led to some drivers having to seek medical and/or psychological attention.

Anton Balkitis and his team are also encouraging drivers to use secure parking areas, as highlighted in the regularly updated IRU-ECMT Truck Parking

Areas publication, and to make more use of protective devices, including robust vehicle security systems. Whilst concerns over a rise in reported incidents are being addressed by the European Conference of Ministers and the International Road Transport Union, Mr Balkitis offers the following advice: "Until there are more concrete measures in place on a practical level drivers must take more personal responsibility. Drivers should follow whatever guidance they are given by their employers and the various codes of practice available."

One innovative project aimed at tackling the thorny issue of secure parking is NS FRITS (North Sea Freight Intelligent Transport Solutions) – www.nsfrits.eu/en/ – which will provide information about secure parking locations, crime hotspots and local policing practices. Access to this information will help ensure drivers remain safe. This system aims to reduce journey times and cut the costs associated with the loss of goods and vehicles, reducing the cost of freight crime across Europe. It will provide live information in a series of languages, to drivers and transport managers as they work and travel across the North Sea Region.

The NS FRITS system development and testing will be completed by 2011. It is being developed by a selection of public and private sector organisations.

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Planting the seeds for greener driving

Major fuel card reseller The Fuelcard Company has launched EcoPoint, a green upgrade for fuel cards to help commercial drivers offset their carbon footprint and enjoy greener driving, for less than two pence extra per day. EcoPoint is a handy bolt-on to existing fuel cards so customers do not need to change their current card.

Coinciding with the 2010 budgets supporting carbon reducing schemes within the transport sector, EcoPoint offers the company's customers a practical way of reducing their impact on the environment while continuing to make every drop count at the pumps.

Every EcoPoint package purchased contributes to an extensive scheme to plant more than 100,000 trees over the next five years, thanks to a strategic partnership with registered charity the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT). EcoPoint was officially launched with the planting of The Fuelcard Company's first tree at Airton, near Malham, North Yorkshire, one of the areas covered by the YDMT.

In addition to supporting tree planting, The Fuelcard Company's customers receive a wide range of other green benefits including advice such as 'eco-driving'; paperless billing; and a quarterly newsletter keeping them updated on the tree-planting scheme.



The Fuelcard Company's Sarah Adams (left) and Jenna Peters plant the seeds for greener driving

Jakes de Kock, Marketing Director at The Fuelcard Company, said: "As a business committed to a greener future, we are always looking for ways to reduce our carbon footprint and that of our customers. As EcoPoint is a bolt-on to existing cards, our customers can now enjoy all the cost-saving benefits of their fuel card as well as being secure in the knowledge they're playing their part in protecting the environment."

• For further information, visit: www.businessfuelcards.co.uk

ADR Express – providing a quality service

ADR Express is a leading express service operator specialising in the carriage of dangerous goods, providing a fast, efficient and safe service tailored to meet customers' requirements 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Directors Neil and Beccy Ricketts have taken the company, which was founded in 2001, from strength to strength, offering an unrivalled service to a strong and loyal client base and getting work from across all industry sectors, either directly from manufacturers of chemicals, paints, pharmaceutical products, marine life-saving appliances, fuel for motorsport, waste disposal sites and the MoD as well as transport companies and freight forwarders.

Neil is the main driver of the company, but ADR Express also employs eight owner drivers to assist with its operations. All drivers are ADR trained and equipped and each driver is regularly audited by Beccy, who not only has her ADR licence but is a fully qualified Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor, to ensure that their licences, qualifications and insurances are up to date. Occasionally Beccy gets behind the wheel but in the main orchestrates the day-to-day running of the business.

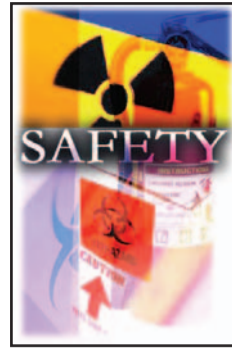
Of late, ADR Express has been transporting Class 1 explosive substances and articles into Europe for high profile special effects companies, where the pyrotechnics were used at Top Gear Live in

Amsterdam and the recent Green Day Concerts in Belgium, Germany and Italy. Deliveries have also been made to main European airports for onward shipment to the Far and Middle East, because some of these goods are prohibited from UK airspace or cannot connect with a UK flight soon enough

to meet delivery requirements. In August, ADR Express will be transporting fireworks to the Monaco Fireworks Championships Competition.

This is where the expertise and experience of ADR Express comes to prominence. Their dedication in communicating with the shipper to obtain correct information and documentation; the ferry operator to source and book the permitted route for the type of hazard being carried, which can mean departing from a port on the east coast of England and arriving 26 hours later into northern Germany; the Harbour Authority to be granted permission to enter the ports; the competent authorities abroad to obtain information on domestic regulatory requirements and where necessary, be authorised to transit their countries; and finally, the consignee to arrange the safe arrival of their expected delivery.

ADR Express does not just consider the ADR or IMDG Regulations for transporting Class 1 explosives or even Class 7 radioactive substances or articles, but must also adhere to any



derogations or restrictions to these rules that are applied.

Recently, both Neil and Beccy completed a course of training in Ionising Radiation Awareness, Safety and Contingency Plans for handling and transport of radioactive substances. Neil has become the company's Radioactive Protection Supervisor and the company has appointed a consultant to act as the Radioactive Protection Advisor. The continued investment in training within this specialist transport industry ensures that each hazardous job undertaken meets the current domestic and international regulations.

Having gained in-depth knowledge and experience, Neil and Beccy supply all their clients with a comprehensive range of services in general haulage and in the transportation of dangerous goods for both national and international transport. By working closely with selected freight service providers, ADR Express also offers clients alternatives to a dedicated service.

The continued repeat business from customers emphasises that ADR Express is providing a quality service that is tailored to their customers' requirements.

• *The next time you are considering your arrangements for transporting hazardous goods, contact Neil on Tel: 07816 671291 or Beccy on Tel: 07973 442354, E-mail: enquiries@adrexpress.co.uk or visit www.adrexpress.co.uk*



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