Tow truck drivers share experiences on driving on rural roads

By: MIKE PICKETT | Thursday, May 23, 2019

OWENSBORO, Ky. (WEHT) Last night, we told you about a study showing Kentucky with one of the nation's highest rates of fatalities in accidents on rural roads. But what's it like to use those roads on a regular basis?

"It's a bigger responsibility because you take up the whole. There's no room for error," says Jason Adamson, a tow truck driver for Tally's Towing and Recovery in Owensboro. He watches for vehicles needing help, and the hazards that cause accidents.

"Some spots get real tight where it's not big enough for your truck and you have to make sure you're not going to hurt anyone else coming at you," Adamson says.

"You have to be on the lookout constantly in front of you, beside you, don't want to get too close to the edge of the shoulder." adds Ray Abner, another driver for Tally's.

A recent study released by TRIP found that 27% of Kentucky's roads are in either poor or mediocre condition, with 7% of the state's bridges rated as poor or structurally deficient. Adamson and other drivers think rural road conditions vary.

"Some roads are good, but there are some roads too that seem like they get no maintenance," he says.

Tow truck drivers tell us they not only have to look out for the conditions on the road themselves while they're behind the wheel, they also have to look out for other drivers to stay safe. Adamson and other drivers say to stay safe when out on the roads, they watch their mirrors, and watch for any approaching traffic when out on calls.

"Make sure your head is on a swivel, so that if a car comes around, and they don't slow down you can get out of the way," he says.

"I do my best to watch everyone around me. Try to be as safe as possible," adds Abner.