

For most people, it's human nature to want to get a job done as quickly as possible. We feel good about ourselves when we accomplish as much as we can. Also, getting a task done in a hurry gives you the ability to start your next task sooner and in some cases, more time to relax or do something that you enjoy more. For parcel delivery drivers, the motivation to rush may also come from a supervisor or manager.

Certainly, a parcel delivery job is probably not a good fit for someone who is slow-paced by nature, or cannot be motivated to perform the job with some degree of urgency. However, there is an important distinction that needs to be made between performing your job "briskly" and "rushing" to get the job done as quickly as possible.

Working at a brisk pace enables you to get the job done in a reasonable amount of time, but does not make the speed at which you do your job the highest priority. Rushing, on the other hand, involves a mindset that places speed above every other consideration, including safety, accuracy, and customer service.

The reality is that when we rush, we make mistakes, take shortcuts, and give less consideration to our personal safety and the safety of the people around us. In short, rushing prevents us from doing our jobs properly, and some statistics show that 92% of the time, the reason accidents occur is because workers aren't doing their tasks properly.

Rushing can also have long-term consequences. These include serious injury and long-term pain, costly medical bills, the possibility of a disabling injury, which could put you out of work, the loss of income from being out of work. Having a good safety attitude means taking responsibility for your actions, and taking responsibility means doing the best job you can – not the fastest job you can.

ONE DRIVER'S STORY

Lance is a delivery driver. A few months ago he was rushing to get his deliveries done. Near the end of his route, he grabbed a large box and hurriedly stepped out of his van. However, the box was big enough that it partially blocked his view. Combined with the fact that he did not take the time to properly assess the situation caused him to lose his balance and fall as he exited the van.

Lance not only fell, but he broke the contents of the box he was carrying, fractured his elbow, cut his lip and broke a tooth. His injuries finally healed but he still feels a nagging pain associated with his broken elbow.

A FEW TIPS

- Think about the consequences of rushing, including increasing your risk of personal injury.
- Commit to giving safety and efficiency priority over speed.
- Slow down when warranted by weather conditions or other environmental factors.
- Use a dolly if it is warranted – even if that might take longer.
- Commit to working briskly and not rushing.