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STRATEGIES TO PREVENT DATA OVERLOAD

As telematics devices deliver more data on more events, users can be in danger of data overload. It's like having a big garage at home — it's great to have unless you can't find the tools you're looking for. Fortunately, these tips on dealing with data overload can help you get the most out of your fleet telematics system.

When starting a telematics system, pick one or two goals to start off with — it's difficult to take it all in at once when you're first learning a system.

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In ongoing use of a telematics system, focus on one problem or goal at a time, and then take on the next.

Work with your telematics provider to develop easy-to-use dashboards tailored to your goals.

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Automate specific and custom alerts.

Schedule important summary reports to pull automatically.

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Have alerts and reports emailed to you so they can be viewed without logging into the software.

If you find yourself regularly digging to get a particular report, re-think what reports you're getting automatically. You may find that these will change over time and as your goals evolve.

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Give yourself a set time or amount of time when going through data so you don't get pulled away from your current goals.

Don't forget to make actions from the data. If a driver is regularly speeding, for example, address it immediately. Be sure you have a plan for how to address these problems and be consistent.

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If you become victim to data overload, take a step back — getting overwhelmed and doing nothing with data is worse than simplifying and making good use of it.