

Frozen Freeways 如履薄冰：极地冰路讨生活

People often complain about how difficult their jobs are. But few **occupations** are as **trying** as ice trucking, a profession which requires drivers to steer eighteen-wheel vehicles over **slippery** ice roads in the dead of winter.

人们常常抱怨他们的工作多么困难，但如与一份需要驾驶者在寒冬开着 18 轮大卡车驶过滑冰的工作相比，很少工作会有相同的挑战性。

Ice roads are man-made structures that link areas together that would be otherwise **inaccessible** by vehicles. **Typically**, they are made in situations when building standard, year-round concrete roads is too costly or impractical. The roads are constructed by **snowplows**, which **clear out** pathways over the frozen terrain. Once the roads have **hardened**, trucks carrying up to 100 tons of cargo can pass over them – as long as the time is right. These **seasonal** roads can last anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, depending on the weather. After that, they began to melt.

冰路为人造建筑，用来连结除了冰路外车子不能通行的地区。一般来说，当建筑一条正规的与终年都能通行的水泥路相当昂贵与不实用时，人们便会建造冰路。铲雪车在冻结的地带清出一条道路，而只要时间点对（例如避开春天降临的月份），负载 100 吨重货品的卡车便可在硬化的冰路上行驶。季节性的冰路在各个地方可维持一些时间，从几个礼拜至几个月——视天候状况而定。过了这之后，冰路就开始融化。

For truckers, driving across ice roads is an excellent way to **make a quick buck**. They are often paid four times their normal rate for these **deliveries**. But driving across these icy **interstates** isn't for everyone. Like temperatures outside, drivers must keep a cool **demeanor** during their journey. The sound of ice roads **cracking** under the weight of heavy **rigs** can test the **nerves** of **rookie** drivers. Plus, if they travel too late in the season, their truck could end up **submerged** in the middle of a frozen lake.

对卡车司机而言，在冰路上送货是大赚一笔的最佳方式。他们的酬劳往往是一般的四倍。但要在州际冰路上驾驶货车并不适合每一个人。司机的心情必须像室外的温度一样，一路上保持冷静。压在沉重货车下的冰路会发出喀喀作响声，而这可是会让新手驾驶员如坐针毡。此外，如果于结冰期尾声驾驶在冰路上，卡车最后的下场可能会沉没在冰冻的湖泊中间。

The show [Ice Road Truckers](#) gives viewers a chance to see these **daredevil** drivers in action, as they make their way across the **Arctic wilderness** in Northern Canada and Alaska. As you watch these rigs roll across the **tundra** to make their deliveries, you'll be glad you chose a safer career.

《冰路前行》让观众有机会见识到这些大胆卡车司机的行车过程，看他们穿越加拿大北部与阿拉斯加的极地荒原。当你看到这些大卡车在荒原里送货时，你将会很高兴你选的职业是比较安全无虞的。

—by Jamie Blackler

Vocabulary

occupation [ˌɒkjəˈpeɪʃən] n. 工作，職業

trying [ˈtraɪɪŋ] adj. 难受的，难堪的

slippery [ˈslɪpəri] adj. 容易滑的

inaccessible [ˌɪnæk ˈsɛsəbəl] adj. 达不到的; 难进入的

typically [ˈtɪpɪklɪ] adv. 通常

snowplow [ˈsnoʊpləʊ] n. 除雪机

harden [ˈhɑːdn] v. 变硬; 变坚固

seasonal [ˈsiːznəl] adj. 季节性的; 周期性的

delivery [dɪ ˈlɪvəri] n. 传送; 交付, 交货

interstate [ˌɪntə ˈstet] n. 州际公路

demeanor [dɪ ˈmiːnə] n. 举动, 行为

crack [kræk] v. 发出爆裂声

rig [rɪɡ] n. 装备, 设备 a truck or tractor

rookie [ˈruːki] n. 新兵; 生手

submerge [səb ˈmɜːdʒ] v. 淹没

daredevil [ˈdeɪ,dɛv!l] adj. 蛮勇的; 不怕死的

wilderness [ˈwɪldə-nɪs] n. 荒野, 荒漠

tundra [ˈtʌndrə] n. 冻土地带, 冻原

nerve [nɜːv] n. 勇敢, 胆量

More Information

clear out 出空; 清除 to make a place or container clean or tidy by removing things that are not wanted and getting rid of any dirt or dust in it

make a quick buck 快速赚钱 to make money with little effort or in a short time