

MTS DIGEST

MARTIN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS



New Trucks Rollin' In!

Great news for truckers at MTS! We have many new sleeper cabs on their way. Investing in our drivers is important and we wanted to share with you the exciting news! These trucks are all Freightliner Cascadia sleepers with the following options:

- Free Freightliner Smart Source app with videos on your truck
- Collision Avoidance System
- APU (Auxiliary Power Unit)
- Automatic Transmission
- Adaptive Cruise Control
- Heated & Cooled Seats
- Blind Spot Monitoring
- Refrigerators
- Lane Keep



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That's not all! Soon we plan to upgrade many of our older trucks. These trucks will have new automatic transmissions, new body and paint, updated technology, and brand new engines.





Truck Drivers Feel The Impact Of Rising Diesel Prices

wcpo.com

Rising costs at the pump are becoming more of a pain for truck drivers as diesel fuel hit a national average of \$5.47 per gallon.

Experts said the skyrocketing prices are already crippling an industry dealing with driver shortages.

“Our need for moving America’s goods has increased about 3% from a year ago,” said Kevin Burch, former board chairman for the American Trucking Association and current vice president of Martin Transportation. “So you put all of those factors together and here we go with the fuel again. It’s been a challenge for us because you can’t deliver America’s goods without fuel.”



The American Trucking Association reports that more than 70% of freight is transported via trucks. Fuel surcharges are affecting the cost of goods for everyday Americans and businesses.

“When fuel jumps like that, brokers and customers don’t understand that your costs change overnight,” said Shelli Conaway, a truck driver who stopped in Florence Friday to fuel up. “We’re stuck, we have to have it. We can’t choose to stay home or take public transportation.”

Conaway’s two 150-gallon tanks cost her nearly \$1,000 to fill.



“We woke up one day it was under \$5,” she said. “The next day it was over \$5.”

Every year, about 800,000 drivers leave the profession. Experts say rising diesel prices could push more drivers out. Some drivers are opting out of long hauls for short hauls to remain profitable.

32nd Annual Meeting Of The National Association Of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools



Kevin W. Burch (MTS VP Sales & Governmental Affairs Past Chairman, ATA & TCA) was asked to speak to the 32nd Annual meeting of the National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools (N.A.P.F.T.D.S.). This was the 10th year Kevin was invited to speak to their membership. The discussion revolved around the opportunities that the trucking industry has available.

In the picture from left to right is Martin Garsee (Executive Director of N.A.P.F.T.D.S.), Marilyn Surber (Transportation Advisor for Tenstreet, and Kevin Burch (VP of Government Affairs for MTS).

Kevin talked about how important getting the proper skills training is the key to success in becoming a professional truck driver. This opportunity is not only for truck drivers, but also for technicians, dispatch, and management positions.

The talk really focused on the younger driver 3-year pilot program along with the new initiatives on apprenticeships that are being supported at the federal level. The truck driving schools play a vital role in the foundation of the professional truck driver.

Congratulations to Robert Nartker On Retiring!



Congratulations to Robert "Silent Bob" Nartker on retiring after 16 years of service at MTS and Jet Express.

Bob Nartker started his career at Jet Express in 2006 in the Shop/Maintenance department and continued with the merger into MTS until retiring in March of 2022. For 16 years Bob spent 60% of his time in ordering parts and scheduling. The other 40% was spent on inventory control, building maintenance.

Bob most enjoyed "the people" that he worked with at the Dayton terminal. He was known by his fellow workers as "Silent Bob" as he always kept to himself but also got the job done! He will be moving on enjoying gardening and spending more time with his family.

THEY SEE ME ROLLIN'...NEVER SCROLLIN'**DON'T TEXT
& DRIVE!**

More than 2.5 million Americans are involved in motor vehicle accidents every year. Cell phones are involved in 1.6 million of those crashes—a whopping 64 percent. Distracted driving accounts for 421,000 injuries. Approximately 25 percent of accidents in the United States are caused by texting while driving.

Texting while driving is six times more likely to cause an accident than drinking and driving. That's how distracting texting can be, yet people don't realize it.

While most people spend an average of five seconds to read a text message, it takes just three seconds for an accident to happen. Just three seconds checking your phone and not focusing on the road can cause an injury accident—or even a fatality.

Work Zones Safety Tips

fmcsa.dot.gov

On average, over 700 fatalities occur in work zones each year. Commercial motor vehicle (CMV) and passenger vehicle drivers both need to be particularly careful while traveling through work zones. Trucks and buses have limited maneuverability and large blind spots, both of which make operating in these areas more challenging for them. In fact, large trucks are disproportionately involved in work zone crashes.

Stay safe while traveling through work zones with these tips:

1. Research Your Route

Before setting out on the road, research your route. When possible, avoid work zones and use any detours that are available.



2. Pay Attention

You should always keep your eyes on the road, but this is exceptionally important in work zones. Be aware of all signage throughout work zones that can indicate reduced speeds, lane changes and other important information. Avoid distractions such as your cellphone, eating, drinking, the radio, GPS and conversing with other passengers.



3. Slow Down

Lane closures, traffic pattern shifts and reduced speeds are common in work zones. Make sure to slow down when entering a work zone and keep an eye out for road workers.



4. Move Into The Open Lane

When approaching lane closures, move into the open lane as soon as possible. Be sure to pay close attention to vehicles around you that could be in your blind spot.



5. Keep Your Distance

Rear-end crashes are extremely common in work zones – maintain extra space between your vehicle and the one in front of you at all times.



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Tackling Anxiety & Depression In Truck Drivers

fittopass.espyr.com

Did you know that anxiety disorders are the most common mental illness in the U.S., affecting 40 million adults? So what does that mean for our road warriors? The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) studied 316 truckers operating within a 100-mile radius of Greensboro, North Carolina. For many, it confirmed that truckers are part of the struggling population: 27.9% struggled with loneliness, 26.9% suffered some form of depression, 20.6% indicated sleeping problems, and 14.5% had anxiety symptoms.

This confirms that depression and anxiety are common and nothing to be ashamed of. However, it impacts various factors such as your physical health, productivity and focus, and the ability to pass the DOT physical. Addressing driver health and wellness has always been an issue in the trucking industry due to low driver engagement and reach; however, transformation can happen with a collaborative effort between the carrier and driver combined with a driver-centric health and wellness program.

What does a collaborative approach look like to improve a driver's mental health?

As a trucker, your risk of developing a mental health condition is higher than that of the general population. You spend a lot of time alone and away from your loved ones. You may have trouble sleeping. You won't be able to move around and exercise as much as you may be used to. You'll have to adapt your eating habits to your new lifestyle. Fortunately, there are ways to combat depression and anxiety on the road, and we're here to provide some practical solutions:

For Drivers: Establish healthy habits and routines

For Carriers: Provide drivers with navigation systems

For Drivers: Create a comfortable sleeping environment

For Carriers: Provide your road warriors with better mattresses

For Drivers: Stock up on easily accessible healthy foods

For Carriers: Provide education about how to live a healthier lifestyle

What resources are available for truck drivers' mental health?

If you are a trucker suffering from the effects of a mental health condition, we want to assure you that you are not alone. If you need urgent help, please call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) hotline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357). This is a free, 24/7 confidential line for individuals facing mental health conditions. In addition, they offer referrals for local treatment facilities, support groups, and community organizations.

Fit to Pass is another excellent mental health resource for truckers. Fit to Pass was established to improve driver health and keep you on the road with driver-centric health tips, health coaching, a user-friendly app, and access to licensed counselors.



January Corporate Drivers Of The Month (**Dustin Maddox & Travis Mohler**)



Martin Transportation Systems wishes to congratulate **Dustin Maddox and Travis Mohler** from our Kansas, KS terminal for becoming Corporate Drivers of the Month for January 2022.

Kansas City drivers Dustin Maddox and Travis Mohler are sharing the January 2022 Corporate Driver of the Month honors.

A fellow MTS KC driver was struck by an F-150 pick-up truck while waiting outside for a service truck. Our driver suffered some serious injuries.

Upon going home to recover, it was learned our driver had no family locally. Travis and Dustin jumped in to help their fellow driver, including picking up groceries, prescriptions, and buying/setting up a new power chair to make life easier for their comrade.

Much like soldiers, professional truck drivers never leave one of their own behind. Travis and Dustin are great examples proving a professional driver is always a leader and role model.

Thank you Dustin and Travis for your hard work and dedication!

February Corporate Driver Of The Month (**Clemmie Lane**)



Martin Transportation Systems wishes to congratulate **Clemmie Lane** from our Bertrand, MO terminal for becoming Corporate Driver of the Month for February 2022.

Terminal Manager Jimmie Kirkman was excited to hear that Clemmie Lane was the Corporate Driver of the Month.

“Clemmie has always been one of the best and most consistent drivers,” Jimmie said. “Any time we start a new lane, Clemmie is who we ask to try it out so that we can get a good idea of how the route works, so that we can communicate to other drivers that may run that lane in the future.” “He is always on board to help out MTS cover loads in a pinch.”

“Clemmie has brought in more drivers to MTS than any other driver,” Jimmie said. “He is always actively recruiting for MTS and many of the drivers that have been referred to us by him, end up being very reliable and sustained employees.”

Thank you Clemmie for your hard work and dedication!

March Corporate Driver Of The Month **(Ronald Honaker)**



Martin Transportation Systems wishes to congratulate Ronald Honaker from our White Pine, TN terminal for becoming Corporate Driver of the Month for March 2022.

“Ron is a fantastic driver with a great work ethic and a great attitude,” said Terminal Manager Genie Lusk. “He has been with MTS since 2014.” “During that time, he has been the White Pine driver of the month more times than I can count.”

“Thank you Ron, you are a great team player and a pleasure to work with at MTS,” said Genie.”

Thank you Ron for your hard work and dedication!

April Corporate Driver Of The Month **(Timothy Davis)**



Martin Transportation Systems wishes to congratulate Timothy Davis from our Bertrand, MO terminal for becoming Corporate Driver of the Month for April 2022.

“Tim joined the MTS Indianapolis team in late 2020 and by the Spring of 2021 he took over as our number one PRT driver.” said Terminal Manager Eric Brown. “Tim always brings a positive attitude and a can do spirit to the job.” “He goes the extra mile while training new drivers and gives them an extra level of support.”

“At the terminal we enjoy Tim’s sense of humor and support in the yard.” said Eric.”

Thank you Tim for your hard work and dedication!

January Terminal Drivers Of The Month!

Help us congratulate the finalists who are named Terminal Drivers of the Month for January 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Ignacio Ortez - Detroit, MI
- Duane Wahl - Port Huron, MI
- Tra Whitney - St. Louis, MO
- Jimmy Gilcrease - Lima, OH
- Ronald Honaker - White Pine, TN
- Dennis Ferris - Marshall, MI
- Jason Allen - Bertrand, MO
- Clifton Leader - Lansing, MI
- Thomas Sovis - Flint, MI
- Jason Bustamante - Dayton, OH
- Victor Steen - Bowling Green, OH
- Greg Shafer - Marion, IN
- Deborah Wallace - Cleveland, OH
- James Derryberry - Spring Hill, TN
- Robin Robrahn - Byron Center, MI
- Jeffery Clinton - Little Rock, AR
- Sheikh Drame - Louisville, KY
- Mark Pendleton - Indianapolis, IN
- Joseph Ismail - Belvidere, IL
- Roland Orzechowski - Toledo, OH
- Duane Hill - Grand Prairie, TX
- Jeffery Wright - Windsor, ON
- Michael Roby - Cadillac, MI
- Kenneth Weaver - Riverton, IL

These drivers will receive a Driver of the Month certificate. They will still be eligible in the coming months to win Corporate Driver of the Month, as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

February Terminal Drivers Of The Month!

Help us congratulate the finalists who are named Terminal Drivers of the Month for February 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Glenn Barbary - Belvidere, IL
- Clemmie Lane - Bertrand, MO
- Charles Harchl - Bowling Green, OH
- Larry Hector - Cadillac, MI
- Bonnie Hawkins - Windsor, ON
- Timothy Powell - Cleveland, OH
- Thomas Phillips - Dayton, OH
- Delray Washington - Detroit, MI
- Leonard Mitchell - Flint, MI
- Luis Martinez - Grand Prairie, TX
- Hrin Khum - Grand Rapids, MI
- Ronald Witt - Indianapolis, IN
- Mose Gingerich - Kansas City, KS
- Terence Fields - Lansing, MI
- Jeffrey Schwartz - Lima, OH
- Antony Jones - Little Rock, AR
- Sheikh Drame - Louisville, KY
- Edward Selleck - Marion, IN
- John Brink - Marshall, MI
- Joseph Ismail - Phoenix, AZ
- Joseph Martinez - Port Huron, MI
- Floyd Sinkhorn - Riverton, IL
- James Derryberry - Spring Hill, TN
- Robert Kuntz - St. Louis, MO
- Andrew Sieving - Toldeo, OH
- Ronald Honaker - White Pine, TN

These drivers will receive a Driver of the Month certificate. They will still be eligible in the coming months to win Corporate Driver of the Month, as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

March Terminal Drivers Of The Month!

Help us congratulate the finalists who are named Terminal Drivers of the Month for March 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS!

- ▶ Timothy Davis - Bertrand, MO
- ▶ Mickey Payne - Bowling Green, OH
- ▶ Jose A Pacheco Flores - Windsor, ON
- ▶ Deborah Wallace - Cleveland, OH
- ▶ Russell Back - Dayton, OH
- ▶ Mark Abriel - Detroit, MI
- ▶ Anthony Lajoice - Flint, MI
- ▶ Steven Hufford - Grand Prairie, TX
- ▶ Hrin Khum - Grand Rapids, MI
- ▶ Ronald Witt - Indianapolis, IN
- ▶ Jeremy Derose - Kansas City, KS
- ▶ Bradley Feazel - Lansing, MI
- ▶ Jarrod Gannon - Lima, OH
- ▶ Antony Jones - Little Rock, AR
- ▶ Sheikh Drame - Louisville, KY
- ▶ Alan Gaines - Marion, IN
- ▶ Donald Anderson - Marshall, MI
- ▶ Joseph Ismail - Phoenix, AZ
- ▶ Duane Wahl - Port Huron, MI
- ▶ Jeffery Copper - Riverton, IL
- ▶ Marvin Rhoads - Spring Hill, TN
- ▶ Tra Whitney - St. Louis, MO
- ▶ Marcus Davis - Toledo, OH
- ▶ Ronald Honaker - White Pine, TN

These drivers will receive a Driver of the Month certificate. They will still be eligible in the coming months to win Corporate Driver of the Month, as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

April Terminal Drivers Of The Month!

Help us congratulate the finalists who are named Terminal Drivers of the Month for April 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS!

- ▶ Antonio Sanchez - Belvidere, IL
- ▶ Timothy Davis - Bertrand, MO
- ▶ Patrick Merriweather - Bowling Green, OH
- ▶ Donald Brulla - Cadillac, MI
- ▶ Kenneth Cox - Windsor, ON
- ▶ David Trowbridge - Cleveland, OH
- ▶ Thomas Phillips - Dayton, OH
- ▶ James Fenderson - Detroit, MI
- ▶ Steven Borbst - Flint, MI
- ▶ Luis Martinez - Grand Prairie, TX
- ▶ Hrin Khum - Grand Rapids, MI
- ▶ Charles Jenkins - Kansas City, KS
- ▶ David DeWitt - Lansing, MI
- ▶ Jeff Moore - Lima, OH
- ▶ David Jones - Little Rock, AR
- ▶ Sheikh Drame - Louisville, KY
- ▶ Greg Shafer - Marion, IN
- ▶ Brice Nelson - Marshall, MI
- ▶ Joseph Ismail - Phoenix, AZ
- ▶ Duane Wahl - Port Huron, MI
- ▶ Kenesha Anderson - Riverton, IL
- ▶ James Derryberry - Spring Hill, TN
- ▶ Brian Cerentano - St. Louis, MO
- ▶ William Allen - Wentzville, MO
- ▶ Andrew Sieving - Toledo, OH
- ▶ Ronald Honaker - White Pine, TN

These drivers will receive a Driver of the Month certificate. They will still be eligible in the coming months to win Corporate Driver of the Month, as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

Congratulations to Sherry Anderson On Retiring!

Congratulations to Sherry Anderson on retiring after 16 years of service at MTS.



Sherry started working with MTS September 11th, 2006 after an 18-year stint with Freightliner of Grand Rapids. She was hired to be the Warranty Manager and quickly became the Transman Trainer, traveling to all the MTS locations to train all the shop mechanics on how to use the new system. Sherry really enjoyed getting to know everyone. Over the years she became known as the “Shop Mom” to all the workers in the shop. In 2017 Sherry moved back to the parts department to become the Parts Manager for all MTS locations.

Sherry plans to enjoy life, travel more, work in her garden, go boating, and spend a lot more time with her family.

She thanks the Johnstons, McGoverns, and everyone for all they have done for her over the years.



Bay Logistics Sponsors The “Bay Bayoneers” Softball Team

Bay Logistics is sponsoring the “Bay Bayoneers”. This co-ed softball team is comprised of employees from the Bay Logistics Spring Lake Operation. Distribution Center Manager Cindy Gabel is the manager of the team. They are having a lot of fun. Come support the “Bay Bayoneers” and watch them play!

Contact Bay for scheduling information!
baylogistics.com





Folds Of Honor Fundraiser

Bay Logistics sponsored the Folds of Honor Fundraiser Event held at the American Dunes Golf Club on April 30th, 2022. In the picture representing Bay is Kyle Haan (Business Development Manager) and Ron Johnston (Co-Owner). It was a great event!

Folds of Honor provides scholarships to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members.

Folds of Honor was founded by Lt Col Dan Rooney, a Class A Member of the PGA of America. Golf is in their DNA and what is a better way to give back to our nation's heroes than playing a round of golf? Just get out there and play, donate, and make a difference in the lives of military families.

There are many ways to give back. Every donation benefits deserving military families. You can donate by mail, memorials and tributes, workplace giving, estate plans, and you can donate a car.

Go to foldsofhonor.org to learn more.



FOLDS of HONOR

The American Dunes Story

In 2006, the Grand Haven Golf Club hosted a small golf tournament that would inspire the formation of Folds of Honor. The Grand Haven Golf Club closed in 2018 and a small group of patriots joined together with Jack Nicklaus to create American Dunes. The mission of American Dunes is unwavering. We are honored to raise awareness and funds for the families of our fallen and disabled veterans. Jack Nicklaus led the project by donating his \$3 million design fee, a group of eighteen individuals sponsored a hole and five private investors joined together to preserve the birthplace of Folds of Honor.

Lt Col Dan Rooney, a fighter pilot in the USAFR and PGA Professional founded Folds of Honor in 2007. "American Dunes represents a collaboration of countless like-minded patriots, who want this golf course to forever stand as a tribute to the birthplace of Folds of Honor, a safe haven for veterans who find rehabilitation through the recreation of the game, and a backdrop to celebrate our country and those who fought for its freedom" said Rooney. A significant legacy such as this is born out of the effort of selfless individuals and companies who have donated their time and resources.

And now, because of you and many other like-minded patriots that know that Freedom Is Not Free, your support of American Dunes Golf Club directly benefits the Folds of Honor mission.

Your round of golf at American Dunes will be the most heroic round of golf you will ever play. Why? Because it will be for someone else.

Learn more at americandunesgolfclub.com.

MTS Affiliate Vehicle Discount Program

Martin Transportation Systems offers an Affiliate Vehicle Discount Program to all MTS employees and their spouses.

Through this program, employees at MTS and their spouses have elite access to Affiliate Rewards Preferred Pricing on eligible new vehicles. MTS employees can save hundreds off the dealer invoice price, plus save more with any current incentives!

Check out the great pricing today. Visit the MTS website at <https://www.mtstrans.com/affiliate-vehicle-discount-program> for more information.



Affiliate Rewards

Preferred Pricing for Premier Partners



Driver Referral Bonus Program

MTS offers our current drivers, mechanics and dispatchers a \$1,000 Driver Referral Bonus for a new experienced CDL-A driver referred to and hired by MTS.

The referral bonus for a new driver will be paid out as follows:

- \$333 at 30 days of continuous employment
- \$333 at 60 days of continuous employment
- \$334 at 6 months of continuous employment

The driver being referred **MUST** put your name on their MTS application as the person who referred them.



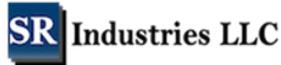
DRIVER REFERRAL BONUS



Bay Logistics Participated In Cleanup Day!

Bay Logistics partnered with Campbell Grinder and SR Industries to clean up Bay's Spring Lake Campus. They huddled up at 9:30am, reviewed the plan and safety protocols and proceeded to beautify their industrial park.

They all worked really hard to make sure all the trash was picked up. Afterwards, Bay hosted a lunch of pizza, bread sticks, pop and ice cream.



Bay Logistics Sponsors Grand Rapids Griffins Hockey Night

Bay Logistics sponsored a Grand Rapids Griffins hockey night on April 13th, 2022. Bay Logistics Spring Lake and Fairlife employees were in attendance. It was a wonderful night of comradery, great food, drinks, and entertainment.





DTNA Unveils Production-Ready eCascadia At ACT Expo

ttnews.com

Freightliner Trucks, a division of Daimler Truck North America, has unveiled its production-ready eCascadia Class 8 electric truck, built on the best-selling heavy-duty truck platform in North America.

“The introduction of zero-emission trucks and all their needed support systems is truly a game changer,” said DTNA CEO John O’Leary. “By developing electric vehicles, investing in charging infrastructure, and offering eConsulting services, we are determined to do our part to make commercial transportation emission-free.”

The eCascadia is suited for short-haul routes that allow for depot-based charging, examples of which include last-mile logistics, local and regional distribution, drayage and warehouse-to-warehouse applications, the Portland, Ore.-based company said.

DTNA made the announcement at ACT Expo. Set for May 9-12, the alternative fuels show this year drew a record 8,000 attendees and about 200 exhibitors.

The truck maker said the eCascadia underwent extensive development and rigorous testing stretching to 2018 through several prototypes. Customer-tested trucks covered more than 1 million miles.

The production truck features multiple battery and drive-axle options, providing a typical range of 230 miles, depending on vehicle configuration. The tandem-drive model has a range of about 220 miles, while the single-drive long-range option can go about 230 miles on a charge. The single-drive model has a standard range of 155 miles.

The truck can be spec’d for 320 to 470 horsepower, and two battery capacities — 438 kWh for tandem and single-drive or 291 kWh solely for single-drive — are offered. The truck can recharge to up to 80% battery capacity in approximately 90 minutes, and is capable of a Gross Combination Weight of up to 82,000 pounds. A 166-inch day cab configuration is available for both single- and tandem-axle options.

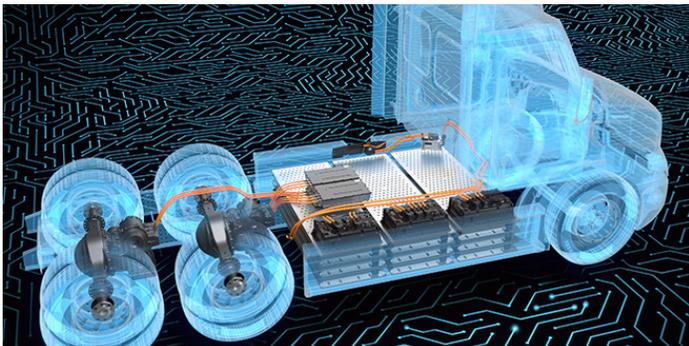


The truck uses the proprietary Detroit ePowertrain, which produces less heat than a traditional combustion engine, so temperature and packaging requirements for cooling are minimized, the truck maker said. This allows the eCascadia to come with closed hood vents and a new grille, which reduces drag by forcing more air around the vehicle, as opposed to pulling it through the radiator.



The Detroit ePowertrain offers two eAxle designs; a dual motor setup offers maximum torque of 23,000 pound-feet and maximum power of 395 horsepower, and a single motor design with maximum torque of 11,500 pound-feet and maximum power of 195 horsepower.

The 291 kWh battery can charge from zero capacity to full in an average of two to four hours, while the 438 kWh battery can fully recharge in an average of two to six hours.



“We remain committed to being at the forefront of the electric vehicle movement and the eCascadia has been a terrific option for our customers ready to incorporate EVs into their fleets,” said Paul Rosa, senior vice president of procurement and fleet planning at Penske Truck Leasing. “We look forward to continuing to work with Daimler Truck to help our customers meet their sustainability goals now and in the future.”

A new Detroit Assurance safety feature debuting on the truck is Active Side Guard Assist, which engages at 12 mph or less. While the driver is still in control, the system mitigates the truck from making a right turn when a moving cyclist or pedestrian is detected on the passenger side. ASGA applies automatic braking along with visual and auditory warnings, and is designed for busy urban settings.

DTNA said real-world testing with fleets validated and reaffirmed many of the expected benefits of electric trucks, including reduced driver fatigue and minimal noise and vibration, and influenced the production version of the eCascadia.

The manufacturer announced earlier this year a future joint venture with NextEra Energy Resources and BlackRock Renewable Power to design, develop, install and operate a nationwide, high-performance charging network for medium- and heavy-duty battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.



The parties plan to build a network of charging sites on critical freight routes along the East and West coasts and in Texas by 2026, leveraging existing infrastructure and amenities while adding complementary greenfield sites to fulfill anticipated customer demand. The first phase is set to begin construction in 2023.

As for maintenance, Freightliner said the trucks can be serviced at nearly 500 of its dealerships. Regular maintenance items to be addressed every 12-48 months include the air compressor, oil and filter changes, low-voltage battery checks, high-voltage wiring checks, eAxle or drive motor lubrication and cooling circuit flushing.

“Our industry is faced with its biggest transformation ever, and we are determined to help our valued customers convert this challenge into an opportunity,” said Rakesh Aneja, DTNA vice president and chief of eMobility.



How To Truck Safely Through Tornado Season

truckersnews.com

Tornadoes pose a serious danger to anyone caught in their path, but especially to truck drivers, who are constantly on the road and may have difficulty finding shelter in time. By far, the safest thing to do is to stay off the road until the severe weather passes, but tornadoes are unpredictable and driving schedules are demanding, so knowing how to remain safe in such conditions is essential.

Understanding tornadoes and the weather conditions in which they appear is the first step toward safety during the height of tornado season. Different areas have different peak seasons to be mindful of when traveling.

“Knowing what times of the year are most favorable, you start to see some of those signs — the heavy rain, the intense rain, some gusty winds, some large hail — that’s a sign that, that thunderstorm is very significant, and it could be that storm that produces a tornado,” said John De Block warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Know the weather before driving into it, and be sure to check constantly along the route by listening to local radio or a NOAA Weather Radio to be alerted of tornado watches or warnings.

“I believe some of the truckers radios have that band on there. They can listen to whichever the closest NOAA weather radio transmitter is being broadcast,” De Block said. He also recommended avoiding listening to internet radios that do not play local weather alerts.

De Block also said there are social media tags that truckers can follow in order to get notifications and alerts for tornadoes and other inclement weather. Alerts are given for counties, not cities, so a driver should be aware of the name of each county along their route.

There are two signals to listen for, a tornado watch and a tornado warning, with a simple way to differentiate one from the other:

- A **tornado watch** means that conditions in the area are favorable to the formation of a tornado, which means drivers should “watch” for things to get worse.
- A **tornado warning** means one has been spotted in the area, which means drivers have been “warned” about the imminent danger.

If at all possible, truck drivers should postpone driving until the weather clears up. Company drives should contact the right personnel and see who monitors the weather conditions and what methods are in place to ensure driver safety on the road.



While the NOAA or local radio gives important and timely updates, the sky is the true indicator. During the day, look for strong, constant rotation in the cloud base, whirling dust or debris under a cloud base as sometimes tornadoes have no funnel. Loud and continuous rumbling, unlike thunder which disappears after a few seconds, and heavy rain or hail followed by a sudden calmness or a quick, intense wind shift are also signs of a tornado.

At night, it's more difficult to see tornadoes, so in addition to audio cues, look for bright flashes at ground level near a thunderstorm. These indicate that incredibly strong winds are snapping powerlines. The flashes will differ from lighting, which is up in the clouds. Lightning can also be useful for watching for signs of a tornado, as it will illuminate the cloud base and show if it is persistently lowering or not.

Drivers need to seek shelter immediately when these signs are spotted.

Any FEMA storm shelter or well-constructed building, such as hotels, restaurants, gas stations or rest stops, is a good place to stay, and drivers can research possible shelter locations prior to getting on the road using an online map service. If a building does not have a storm shelter, an indoor room on the lowest level away from windows, doors and walls that touch outside is the next best option.

"You should try to avoid a manufactured home structure, because their anchoring system typically isn't strong enough to withstand a tornado," De Block said.

According to De Block, there are two worst-case options should other, safer shelter be unavailable. The first is staying in the truck, crouching low on the floor to avoid any glass fallout. The second is getting out of your truck and getting into the lowest point of a ditch, and covering your head. He said it may also be possible to drive away from a tornado seen in the distance by driving at a right angle.

Overpasses are not safe areas for shelter during a tornado. Many of those structures are built without girders providing any type of crawl space, and an area above the true ground level will leave a person susceptible to higher wind speeds and more flying debris. Furthermore, the overpass can cause a tunnel effect with the wind, increasing speed, and as the tornado passes an overpass that is directly in its path, wind direction can change 180 degrees as the vortex passes.

"Do not park underneath an overpass. That's a constrained area that the wind actually will blow faster underneath. Furthermore, if people park underneath the overpass, you can block traffic and hinder the first responders in a response to a storm," De Block said.



No Parking: Updating Infrastructure To Fix Driver Shortage, Supply Chain Delays In The Long Term

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America's record-breaking shortage of 80,000 truck drivers isn't showing any signs of slowing down. Myriad contributing factors, including the demographic (primarily age and gender) of the current workforce, the sometimes-inflexible trucking lifestyle, and pay concerns have taken a front seat to the discussion.

The Biden administration signed a Trucking Action Plan in December, designed to bring more drivers into the workforce— including initiatives such as expediting commercial driver's licenses (CDLs), accelerating the expansion of Registered Apprenticeships, and conducting veterans-focused outreach and recruitment.

Infrastructure hasn't necessarily been at the heart of the driver shortage conversation. However, for an issue that has been around for years and has no immediate end in sight, longer-term solutions must be considered in tandem with the more immediate fixes outlined in the Trucking Action Plan. Addressing trucking's decades-old infrastructure issue is among those long-term necessities.

Outdated infrastructure leads to the reduced safety of everyone on the road. Drivers must adhere to strict hours-of-service regulations that maintain they are rested and safe to drive. But lack of available parking, for example, puts drivers in risky positions. When unable to find a space to legally park their trucks, drivers have one of three options: park in an illegal or unsafe location, operate their vehicle illegally until they are able to find safe parking, or stop driving prematurely.



Safety in parking is also an issue of recruitment equity – infrastructural shortcomings like the lack of parking, gender-specific restrooms and showers, and full-service truck stops mean that female drivers will typically wait until late hours of the night for their male colleagues to leave before using amenities alone. While they wait, they are often left to walk around in unfamiliar areas in the nighttime – a safety concern inhibiting recruitment which could be addressed if updated infrastructure provided a separate, private space for women.



Furthermore, in the era of the Great Resignation, people switching careers are looking for state-of-the-art attributes in their industries as well as indications that they will be supported in their day-to-day lives. With more efficient infrastructure, streamlined operations will allow for greater time and resources to devote to apprenticeship programs and in-fleet recruiting support. Additionally, the mitigation of infrastructural concerns will allow drivers to maximize use of in-cab technologies and streamline their personal productivity, which is far more appealing to potential recruits than the promise of frequent dead-stop traffic.

The trucking industry is looking at 1.2 billion hours of lost productivity annually – the equivalent of 425,000 drivers sitting idle for an entire year. Given the current state of infrastructure, many existing drivers are, in actuality, sitting idle for far too long. The industry is waiting to see if legislation like the Truck Parking Safety Act – introduced last year in the House of Representatives with the suggestion of \$755 million for truck parking capacity – will see the light of day. Without the passage of such legislation, there will be inaction or at least a much longer wait for action. In the meantime, the supply chain hangs in the balance.

Supply chain delays, the driver shortage, and issues with driver retention will not get better overnight. The long-term solution for America's driver shortage requires a delicate balance of improving trucking infrastructure and bringing a new generation of diverse drivers into the force. Investing in and planning for the long-term health and longevity of infrastructure is the viable starting point that the trucking industry has been looking for.