



August 31, 2010

the green sheet

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August 30 fuel prices

Nebraska - \$2.910 (-.032)

National - \$2.938 (-.019)

Midwest - \$2.909 (-.018)

Rocky Mtn. - \$3.019 (+.003)

(change from one week ago)

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Learn how driver screening can be improved

Here's a tip for using PSP: only use it as a final clearing report after a driver-applicant successfully emerges from employment history matching, criminal background checks and other early processes. That's from the safety director at Dart Transit in Minnesota, talking about the pre-employment screening program now available through a federal contractor. Elaine Briles says that at \$10 per screen, you should use your other resources first. But, she says, it has turned up employers and other issues that applicants hadn't disclosed. Learn more about how and when to incorporate PSP into your driver screening on September 16, when Nebraska Trucking hosts a convention breakout session on the topic.

This is your LAST DAY to register for convention at the lowest registration rate. To register, visit www.nebtrucking.com, click on this story and follow the link.

Heavy vehicle use tax due today

Payment of your federal heavy vehicle use tax (IRS Form 2290) is due August 31 on any vehicles you've registered for more than 55,000 pounds. The Internal Revenue Service did not mail out reminders or forms this year. If you need help, contact Joyce Daake at Truck Services, 402-476-7671, jdaake@nebtrucking.com.

Traveling in Nebraska on Husker Game Day

Interstate widening continues on I-80 from Lincoln east to the I-80 Mahoney Interchange at the Platte River. I-80 from 56th Street to I-180 in Lincoln has two lanes open in each direction with a reduced speed limit for construction. The interstate is open to two lanes in both directions from Greenwood to Waverly. Three lanes of I-80 are open in both directions on the northwest side of Lincoln. Three lanes are open in both directions from Omaha west to the Platte River. All four lanes will be open through work on Highway 281/34, south of Grand Island to the interstate. A project at the York I-80 interchange will reduce traffic to one lane in both directions on the Highway 81 bridges over the interstate. Some traffic congestion on Highway 81 at the entrance/exit ramps for I-80 is possible. If you plan to travel to Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, check 511 from anywhere in Nebraska by phone or www.511nebraska.org. The 511 service is a toll-free, 24-hour, year-round travel and weather information source.

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212 webinar participants and counting

If you have a small fleet and limited time to attend in-person meetings, this webinar will be the next best thing to being in the room. Seven trucking companies in pilot states will tell you about their experience with Comprehensive Safety Analysis in a live webinar September 8. The webinar will include case studies from each category of the new safety system. You will be able to ask questions. The live webinar is set for 1- 4 p.m. central time. Registration fee for Nebraska Trucking members is \$125; non-member registration is \$225. Register online at <http://www.csa-exp.com>. So far, 212 participants from across the country have registered, including seven of your colleagues in Nebraska.

Support the Special Olympics Convoy September 18

Get one or more of your drivers and rigs into the Nebraska edition of the World's Largest Truck Convoy, a fund-raiser for Special Olympics. Last year, 1,500 truckers in 29 states, including Nebraska, raised \$606,000. This year's Hastings-to-Grand Island convoy is Saturday, September 18. To register, contact Roger Duerig at 402-469-4348.

ATA goes to the White House to talk HOS

Dave Osiecki, Rob Abbott and Bob Costello of the American Trucking Associations secured a meeting with officials from the White House Office of Management and Budget August 24. The topic was the proposed hours of service rule that is under OMB review. The ATA team communicated the industry's safety record over the past six years while operating under the current rule. They also pointed out the limited benefits and the significant costs of hours-of-service changes to the trucking industry and the larger supply chain. Meanwhile, ATA Chairman Tommy Hodges of Tennessee-based Titan Transfer told participants at the Commercial Vehicle Outlook Conference in Dallas it's a strong possibility that the industry may lose one or even two hours of driving time under a new rule, equaling an 18 percent loss in productivity.

Member record update headed your way

Watch your postal mail for a Nebraska Trucking membership record update form. You want your 2011 membership directory listing to be accurate. Reviewing the form and making any corrections is the way to achieve that goal.

Quote of the week

"Hours of service will have nothing to do with good science. It will have nothing to do with records. It's a political football that's going to get passed over yours and my head."

—Tommy Hodges, chairman of Titan Transfer,
anticipating the contents of a new hours of service rule