

# TRANSPORTATION TIMES



July 1, 2011

## DOT AND BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU TEAM TO FIGHT DISTRACTED DRIVING

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Ray LaHood announced a collaboration between the Agency and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) to educate consumers and businesses about the dangers of distracted driving. The partnership is encouraging all businesses across the country to raise awareness among their employees by adopting their own distracted driving policies to save lives, reduce time lost from

work due to accidents and injuries and save money. Stephen A. Cox, president and CEO of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, commented that "raising awareness about the dangers of multi-tasking while driving is vital." The BBB national website features a link to a free toolkit developed by DOT and the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) providing employers with suggested distracted driving policies for their

companies. The website also features videos from DOT's "Faces of Distracted Driving" series which includes stories from those who have lost loved ones due to distracted driving accidents. **GO HERE** to access the BBB information and toolkit. The U.S. Government website for distracted driving is available **HERE**.



## THIRTY-FOUR STATES NOW BAN TEXTING WHILE DRIVING FOR ALL DRIVERS

With the passage of a new law effective January 1, 2012, Nevada has become the 34th state to ban texting while driving for all drivers. Governor Brian Sandoval took

the legislation one step further to include a ban on using handheld cell phones as well. Violators will be fined \$100 for a first offense, \$200 for the second and \$250 for a

third time offense. Drivers ticketed more than three times could have their licenses revoked for six months. **GO HERE** to see your state law.

[www.tricorinsurance.com](http://www.tricorinsurance.com)

Thomas Osterholz  
Safety Consulting Manager  
[TOsterholz@tricornet.com](mailto:TOsterholz@tricornet.com)

Mary Schoettel  
Safety Consultant  
[MSchoettel@tricornet.com](mailto:MSchoettel@tricornet.com)

Alyssa Moen  
Safety Consultant  
[AMoen@tricornet.com](mailto:AMoen@tricornet.com)

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## TRICOR INSURANCE ANNOUNCES: TOLL FREE TRUCKERS CERTIFICATE HOTLINE



We are excited to announce our new TOLL FREE TRUCKERS CERTIFICATE HOTLINE at TRICOR Insurance. We have set this up specifically for our trucking clients to make it easier for you to get a certificate upon request and answered live in the business hours of 8-5 Monday thru Friday.

To reach our certificate hotline you will need to call **1-800-909-3717**. If you are unable to call during business hours

and do not have On Line Certificates set up through TRICOR's Inscope Program, Dial extension **9020** to leave a message and a TRICOR Representative will return the call at the next business day.

**Again the number is 1-800-909-3717 x9020.**

Also, If you are not currently set up for the Online Certificate Program and do not currently have a user code and password for this, contact your Account Executive and one will be set one up for you.

If you have any questions, please contact one of our

Transportation Specialists:



Dan Oberfoell  
877 Go TRICOR x1409

[doberfoell@tricorinsurance.com](mailto:doberfoell@tricorinsurance.com)



Joe Pins  
877 Go TRICOR x1124

[jpins@tricorinsurance.com](mailto:jpins@tricorinsurance.com)



John Baumhover  
877 Go TRICOR x1121

[jbamuhover@tricorinsurance.com](mailto:jbamuhover@tricorinsurance.com)

### HOURS-OF-SERVICE RULE DELAYED UNTIL OCTOBER

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) says it will not meet a court-imposed deadline to issue new hours-of-service rules for drivers of property-carrying vehicles.

According to a status report filed on May 20, 2011, with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the

FMCSA now intends to publish a final rule by October 28, 2011, about three months later than originally scheduled.

The agency says the delay is necessary due to its need to collect additional public input on several studies being used in the rulemaking process.

The original deadline for a final rule — July 26, 2011 — was part of a 2009 settlement agreement with Public Citizen and other petitioners. The FMCSA published a proposed version of the rule on December 29, 2010.

### TIDBITS

- ⇒ New Hampshire is the only state with no seat-belt laws for adults.
- ⇒ The average American home creates more pollution than the average American car.
- ⇒ Bad car-ma: When exposed to traffic noise, zebra finches are more likely to cheat on their mates.
- ⇒ California has the highest number of interstate highways.
- ⇒ Americans lose more than 1.6 million hours a day stuck in traffic
- ⇒ The average American driver spends about one hour in a car each day, including weekends.

## PSP HAS FIRST BIRTHDAY

Commercial carriers and truck drivers conducted 380,000 pre-employment driver safety record searches during the first year of a new, secure online search program, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced recently.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) launched the Pre-Employment Screening Program (PSP) in May 2010 to provide access to drivers' inspection and crash records as part of the hiring process.

During its first year, 353,929 users visited the PSP website at [www.psp.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.psp.fmcsa.dot.gov) and PSP customer service responded to over 19,000 calls. FMCSA staff traveled to conferences and association meetings across the country to demonstrate the program's benefits. In recognition of PSP's outstanding customer service and stakeholder outreach, the program was selected as a 2011 Government Customer Support Excellence Awards finalist.

"These results show that carriers welcome PSP as an essential tool for making informed hiring decisions that lead to safer drivers on our roads," said FMCSA Administrator Anne S. Ferro. "We know that the majority of our nation's carriers and drivers strive to operate as safely as possible. PSP makes their jobs a lot easier."

PSP provides access for up to five years of driver crash data and three years of inspection data, which includes serious safety violations in the areas of unsafe driving, hours-of-service, controlled substances and alcohol, and valid medical qualifications. It also gives

users access to co-driver safety records, post-crash violations, and the dates that drivers' records are updated.

By using driver safety information during pre-employment screening, carriers can better assess the potential safety risks of prospective driver-employees. PSP also provides drivers additional opportunities to verify the data in their driving history and correct any discrepancies. Drivers' records will be protected in accordance with federal privacy laws.

The PSP data is updated monthly by FMCSA's Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS). The MCMIS is comprised of driver performance data including inspection and compliance review results, enforcement data, state-reported crashes, and motor carrier census data.

## SOME STATES ADDING REVISIONS TO MOVE OVER LAWS

Forty-nine states have now adopted Move Over laws which mandate that motorists slow down at least 20 miles below the posted speed limit and/or move over away from stopped law enforcement officials, first responders and highway maintenance vehicles when their lights are flashing. Hawaii is the lone hold out. Some states are amending their existing rules to broaden the requirements for drivers approaching stopped vehicles. Arizona has

expanded its law to include roadside-assistance vehicles such as tow trucks and any other vehicle displaying alternating flashing lights or warning lights, including commercial vehicles. Tennessee's law, which already applies to tow trucks, will be expanded to include utility vehicles. Utah drivers will face stiffer penalties for violating the Move Over law. In addition to a \$125 fine, offenders will be required to attend a four-hour defensive

driving course and, if not completed within 90 days of the offense, violators will lose driving privileges for 90 days. With hundreds of federal, state and local law enforcement officers and emergency responders injured or killed in traffic incidents each year, more states are expected to expand the laws, step up enforcement and provide more education to the driving public. For more information and details on the Move Over laws for each state, [\*\*GO HERE.\*\*](#)

# SHARING THE ROAD WITH PEDESTRIANS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that U.S. pedestrian deaths rose by 0.4 percent in 2010, bucking the trend of overall traffic fatalities dropping to their lowest levels since 1949. There are many causes for pedestrian accidents, and while you can't predict or prevent every situation from happening, you can practice some pedestrian safety rules to help decrease the likelihood of being involved in a pedestrian-vehicle collision:



- **Keep your eyes moving.** Glance to either side every few seconds to help spot pedestrians near or approaching the roadway.
- **Yield the right of way.** When you see a pedestrian, be

prepared to give way. Any time you are going to conflict with pedestrians as you turn or they cross, slow down, watch carefully and be prepared to stop.

- **Pedestrians can act unexpectedly.** Corners and intersections are very risky. Also be on the lookout in heavily congested areas, in parking lots, along the shoulder of the road and while driving on streets lined with parked cars.

- **Look twice and move your head and your eyes before you move.** Pedestrians can be hidden from view. Poor weather conditions, night time and blind spots around your vehicle greatly diminish your ability to see. Keep your windshield clean for maximum visibility.

- **Pay attention to pedestrians using hand-held devices, such as cell phones and MP3 players.** Pedestrians, like drivers, can be easily distracted. When using such devices, pedestrians typically walk slower and are often less likely to look at traffic before

crossing the road.

- **Exercise caution when driving near schools, bus stops, playgrounds and parks.** Children are often the least predictable pedestrians and the most difficult to see.
- **Be patient with elderly and disabled people.** Seniors and those with physical disabilities may require more time to cross the street.
- **Watch for people in parked cars as they can quickly become pedestrians.** Slow down and keep your eyes moving so that if the car door opens at the worst possible moment, you have a better chance of avoiding a collision.
- **Be well rested and stay alert.** You can't let your guard down even when your passengers are safely delivered and you are returning to your base. Stay alert and aware and avoid dangerous distractions that can put you and others at risk.

If you have any questions, or need additional information on safety, driver training or regulatory issues, please call **TRICOR Safety Consulting at (877) Go TRICOR x1534** or visit our website at:

[www.TRICORInsurance.com/SafetyConsulting](http://www.TRICORInsurance.com/SafetyConsulting)