



MMTA SAFETY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2022

Meeting opened by Chairman Patchell at 8:02 am

PRESENTATIONS:

Tim introduced the topics and presenters:

1. Close calls/near misses – Brandon Kelly/Dave Smiley, Hartt Transportation Systems Inc

Brandon Kelly

- Hartt used PeopleNet
- Bring drivers in to discuss incidents
 - Example – vehicle didn't yield coming on the interstate, driver could have braked
 - Same driver did brake and avoided a second incident – learned from first lesson – driver called in situation ahead of company realizing what happened
 - Give kudos when they are due as there are many situations when the drivers have done everything right and avoid many incidents
 - Great training tool for the specific drivers and others they are training, current, etc – situational awareness
 - Training tool, not just litigation tool
 - Good defensive driving when drivers know of problem areas
 - Speed limit and speed of truck shows during the video
 - Follow up on imprudent speed
 - Tim mentioned even in situations that work out for the best, “You can be right, but don't be dead right”.

2. Close calls/near misses - Scott Clark – Savage

- Event with many lessons learned
 - Outward facing video – truck veers off the road
 - Inward facing camera - seatbelt was not worn properly – choked on vitamins, lost consciousness and was tossed all over the cab

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ELDT and Changes to CDL Road Tests – Chris Ireland/Larry Boivin, Maine BMV

ELDT Presentation – Chris Ireland

- 3000 written exams per year
- Companies can self-certify their training programs via Federal Motor Carrier Training Registry
- MMTA Interest free loans available for CDL training
- 107 entities in Maine are registered as training providers – Tim said 135 as of yesterday
- Before scheduling someone for written or road tests, BMV check's training records in registry to ensure training was provider by a registered provider – transparent to businesses and drivers
- 400% surge in the CDL written exams from last fall to February 2022...800 drivers
- Ed Naples mentioned that Maine has been in good shape for years because we have had training facilities available.
- Gerry Breton, Lucas Tree Experts – going to attempt to do the training on their own with resources they have used in the past
- Contact for questions: Beth Kohler 207-624-9000 x52128
beth.kohler@maine.gov

CDL Road Tests – Chris Ireland

- To meet federal requirements, some road tests may be extended. – Could be 45 minutes but could be 90 minutes especially in rural areas. This is because test must include all require number of demonstrated maneuvers.
- How companies are preparing their drivers should not change.

2. Vaccination Mandates – Tim

- US imposed mandates regarding vaccinations for drivers from Mexico and Canada
- Has had an impact on companies that have done business in Canada for years

3. Emergency Declarations – Eric Adair, FMCSA and Lt. Hayden, Troop K

- Eric Adair, FMCSA
 - Regional emergency declaration – home fuels issued Jan 7 and renewed in Feb – expires March 8th.
 - National Covid declaration – expires Feb 28th – has been refined along the way – auto parts have been added
 - Companies must use the portal to report use of the national declaration
 - Burden of proof for use of waiver shifts to motor carrier
- State declarations – Lt Hayden, Troop K
 - FMCSA is moving to a data driven process when considering waiver discussions
 - Review the data from questions regarding waivers
 - Make sure you are hauling the loads that are covered and providing relief to emergency
 - May use data collection form in future.
- Tim asked about specifics of providing relief for the emergency
 - Are you hauling a commodity that is on list and is it an emergency?
 - Listen to who you are hauling for. Does the Shipper and Receivers consider it an emergency?
 - Covid – driver shortage
 - Make sure drivers know how to explain which waiver they are using and why
 - If drivers are fatigued, don't use them.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Crash Mitigation System Issues – Chris Cyr, RF Chamberland
 - Was not on the call
2. FMCSA Apprenticeship Program – Eric Adair, FMCSA
 - <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safedriver>
 - Drivers between 18 – 20 operate interstate – applications have not opened up yet. Should be soon.
 - Give Eric's office a call with questions
 - Restricted to three years at this time
 - 3000 participants
 - Staff changes
 - Larry Bennett, newest investigator
 - Potential vacancies
3. TDC/PTSC – Randy
 - Moving forward with events – May 21st
 - Need volunteers
4. Golf Tournament June 15th – Tim

5. May SMC meeting – Tim
 - Details soon on location, etc

6. Topics for future meetings

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Patchell at 9:23 am