

TRANSTRENDS

THE TRANSLAW GROUP, INC.

EDITOR: JAMES M. BURNS



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IF YOU WISH TO END YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO TRANSTRENDS, SIMPLY SEND AN EMAIL REQUESTING A CANCELLATION TO JBURNS@TRANSREGS.COM

BRAKE SAFETY WEEK IS SEPT. 11-17



It is time to get back to work! Brake Safety Week, which occurs Sept. 11-17, is a commercial vehicle inspection blitz designed to enforce brake safety throughout North America.

Defective or out-of-adjustment brakes will result in a vehicle being placed out of service, according to the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. Inspectors will check for brake-system components to identify loose or missing parts, air or hydraulic fluid leaks, worn linings, pads, drums or rotors, faulty brake-system components and ABS indicator lamps.

Inspectors will be measuring pushrod stroke when appropriate as well.

Last year 18,817 vehicles were inspected. Approximately 12.3 percent were placed OOS for all violations combined – down from 16.2 in 2014. More than 60 percent of the 2015 out-of-service orders were for **out-of-adjustment brakes**. Be prepared for the blitz!

TRAFFIC DEATHS UP 7.2 PERCENT IN 2015, LARGEST INCREASE IN 50 YEARS

More than 35,000 people lost their lives in traffic crashes last year, a 7.2 percent increase from 2014, according to final data released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



Fatalities increased for nearly every demographic, including passenger vehicle occupants, passengers of large trucks, pedestrians, pedalcyclists (aka bike riders), motorcyclists, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities, male/female and daytime/nighttime. Among the

few categories where traffic deaths were relatively unchanged: drivers of large trucks.

By category, the fatality increases were:

- Pedalcyclists – 12.2 percent
- SUV – 10.1 percent
- Pedestrians – 9.5 percent
- Van – 9.3 percent
- Motorcycles – 8.3 percent
- Passenger car – 5.7 percent
- Pickup – 4.7 percent
- Large trucks – 1.7 percent

LAWSUIT UP IN THE AIR FOR FORMER J.B. HUNT DRIVER



A jury recently awarded \$225,000 to a former J.B. Hunt truck driver who claimed he was wrongfully terminated. However, an unusual claim by a jury member leaves that jury's decision hanging in the balance.

A Superior Court jury in Bridgeport, Conn., awarded Dwight Daley \$225,000 on his claim. *The Connecticut Post* reports that a day later one of the jury members returned to the courtroom and announced, "I'm ready to resume deliberations."

On Wednesday, an attorney for J.B. Hunt filed a motion for a hearing to determine the juror's competency.

Daley sued J.B. Hunt, saying he was fired in 2011 after having been in a motorcycle accident. Daley's suit claimed he returned to work with a doctor's note, but was fired after being unable to provide notes from all of his doctors.

SARAH MILDRED LONG IS OUT OF BUSINESS

A 76-year-old bridge connecting New Hampshire and Maine has been shut down permanently amid mechanical issues with the lift, according to the Maine Department of Transportation.



Connecting Portsmouth, NH. and Kittery, Maine, the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge is no longer open to vehicle traffic. On Aug. 21, the lift bridge experienced mechanical failure. Federal law requires the bridge to be accessible to marine traffic at all times. With the lift propped to the up position, that requirement has been fulfilled.

Just a note about Ms. Sarah for many years, the bridge was simply known as the Maine-New Hampshire (Interstate) Bridge. In 1987, the bridge was renamed to honor Sarah M. Long, who had been an employee of the Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Bridge Authority for 50 years. Starting with the agency in 1937 when the Authority was created, Ms. Long filled a number of positions, from secretary to executive director.

Engineers from MaineDOT and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation decided to permanently close the bridge to vehicle traffic after assessing how much and how long it would take to repair. Cost of repairs could reach at least \$1 million and take six weeks to complete and the bridge was scheduled to close in November of this year. Detours between the two cities will be routed to the Interstate 95 “High Level” Bridge and the Memorial Bridge on U.S. Route 1.

HUNTING SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER



The time honored American tradition is a few weeks away, hunting season. Time to check out the hunting gear and stock up on your favorite bottled or canned beverages.

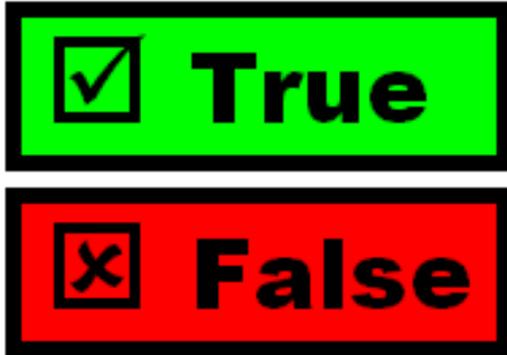
Now is a good time to check out the latest Orvis hunting catalog to make sure you are “fashion correct” while scouting the woods for your favorite tree stand.

Make sure you are a good marksman – you do not want to end up like this

hapless guy in his new pick-up.

**IT IS NOT NICE TO LIE TO THE FEDS
URS FILING SYSTEM**

The co-owner of a Louisiana trucking company was sentenced for making false statements to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration on an operating authority application, according to federal court documents. Pamela Parker indicated she had no history with trucking, when in fact, she did.



In May 2013, FMCSA conducted a compliance review for Parker Trucking Co., operated by Pamela Parker and one other unnamed individual. FMCSA discovered several violations during the review, resulting in an “unsatisfactory” safety rating for the company. Consequently, Parker received an out-of-service order on Aug. 15, 2013.

Less than one month after being placed out of service, Parker filed an application for motor carrier and broker authority. When asked if she has ever had a relationship with an FMCSA-regulated entity within the past three years, Parker indicated she had not.

Parker was indicted in November 2015 and pleaded guilty earlier this year. She was sentenced to one-year probation and fined \$1,500 plus a \$100 assessment fee.

NEW FILING PROCESS TO DETECT FRAUD: The new Unified Registration System for registering with the FEDS has been delayed for a few months. The URS is designed to detect fraudulent statements during the application process. The URS system will require many entities heretofore not required to now register with the FMCSA/US DOT.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE URS RULE? The URS rule applies to all interstate motor carriers (private and for-hire motor carriers of passengers and property), freight forwarders, brokers, intermodal equipment providers (IEPs), hazardous materials safety permit (HMSP) applicants/holders, and cargo tank manufacturing and repair facilities under FMCSA jurisdiction.

In a press release the FMCSA Announces Three-Month Extension of Unified Registration System Effective Date. FMCSA is delaying the implementation of the final stage of the Unified Registration System (URS) until Jan. 14, 2017, with a new full compliance date of April 14, 2017.

The agency is currently updating its information technology systems and undertaking a complex migration of millions of records to remote storage servers. This work will provide the agency and its state partners a foundation to successfully launch the final stage of URS.

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The agency estimates that the initial phase of URS, launched in December 2015, has saved the industry approximately \$1.6 million in processing time during the first six months. To date, FMCSA has issued 62,000 USDOT numbers, removed 340,000 dormant USDOT numbers from agency databases, and screened 100% of operating authority applications for reincarnated carriers.

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