

# TRUCK'N HOTNEWS

WEEKLY UPDATE FOR UTAH TRUCKING ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

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MAY 21, 2007 – MAY 27, 2007

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 28 UTA Office closed for Memorial Day

Jun 06 NUTA, Prairie Schooner Streak House, 12:00 Noon

Jun 07 USMC, Olde English Grill, 11:00am, WVC

## UDOT UPDATE

Mirror Lake Highway from milepost 14.8 to 48.6 has been open to traffic starting May 17. Warmer temperatures have melted snow allowing crews to open the roadway. The road will close again this fall as weather makes the road impassable.

## TRUCKPAC GOLF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED JULY 30

The Annual TruckPac Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Monday, July 30 at the Oakridge Golf Course in Farmington, Utah. It will start off with a continental breakfast at 7:00 a.m. and shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. Please mark your calendar and plan on playing at this beautiful private golf course for this important cause. We thank Dan England-C.R. England and Jack White-Alpha Transport for chairing this important event.

## CVSA ROADCHECK 2007 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's vehicle inspection check is set for June 5-7. An estimated 10,000 federal, state and provincial officers across North America will focus on Level One truck inspections, the most comprehensive, as well as motor coach inspections and seat belt enforcement. During the 2006 roadcheck, about 8,500 inspectors at 1,850 locations across North America performed a near-record 60,357 truck and bus inspections in 72 hours. The number of vehicles placed out-of-service because of serious defects decreased from 22.5% in 2005 to 21.7 % in 2006. However, the number of driver's places out-of-service increased from 4.4% in 2005 to 5.6% in 2006. **Over half of the time, drivers were placed out-of-service for hours-of-service violations.**

## SENATE PANEL SETS 35 MPG STANDARD BY 2020

The U.S. Senate Commerce Committee last week approved The Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act, a bill that would raise the passenger fleet automotive fuel standard to an average 35 miles per gallon by 2020. SB137—which also would mandate a mileage standard for the first time for medium and heavy-duty trucks—passed on a voice vote and should go to the full Senate for debate and a vote in June according to lawmakers. The Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act—sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who is not a member of the Commerce Committee—also would require that after 2020 and until 2030, fuel economy increase by at least 4% a year. SB137 also would require mileage improvement gains for medium and heavy-duty trucks of 4% per year, marking the first time such mandates would be set for heavy-duty trucks of more than 10,000 pounds.



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## STUDY ON HIGHWAY FUNDING A MUST READ FOR UTA

In a study released last week, the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) proposes new transportation funding options, and identifies losses exceeding \$900 million annually in critical transportation funding resulting from state and federal fuel tax exemptions. The loss from fuel tax exemptions is just one of several implications for highway funding explored in ATRI's *Defining the Legacy for Users: Understanding Strategies and Implications for Highway Funding*. This study is important to all Utah carriers because we are facing the possibility of the state tolling our highways and private investors making highways for-profit businesses. The report is one of the first studies from a system user perspective. The study highlights the threat to rural America resulting from the push toward tolling and privatization. A copy of the study's Executive Summary is available online at [www.atri-online.org/research/results/economicanalysis/index.htm](http://www.atri-online.org/research/results/economicanalysis/index.htm) or call the UTA office for a copy. This is a must read about how much highway money is being diverted or exempted and not fixing our road system. The better UTA members are educated on highway funding the better we can represent our concerns for tolling.

## EFFECTIVE MIRROR USE

A driver's ability to see objects around his/her truck is a critical element in everyday safety. Roads and traffic are constantly changing. A driver's field of vision could make the difference in avoiding a crash. One thing drivers can do to help ensure maximum vision is to effectively use their mirrors. On today's heavily congested highways, effective mirror use plays an important role in helping drivers arrive at their destinations safely. The following are tips on how to effectively use mirrors to help maximize vision around trucks.

- Make sure mirrors are properly adjusted. If mirrors are not aligned properly, it is like wearing the wrong prescription glasses. During inspections, check to make sure all mirrors are properly adjusted and have not become loose.
- Clean windows and mirrors on regular basis. Dirt, frost, and other debris might inhibit a driver's ability to see clearly. Frequently window and mirror cleaning will help ensure clear vision on all sides of the truck.
- Develop a mirror check station. This will help ensure all mirrors are positioned properly. If properly implemented, a mirror check station can greatly reduce blind spots around a truck. For information on mirror check stations, contact your Great West Safety Representative.

## TRUCKING COMPANY PAYS FOR UNLICENSED

The Business Software Alliance (BSA), a watchdog group representing the nation's leading software manufacturers, recently announced that a haul company located in Billings, Mont., paid BSA a total of \$300,000 to settle claims that it had unlicensed copies of Adobe, Microsoft and Symantec software programs installed on its computers. In addition to making its payment, the company agreed to delete any unlicensed copies, purchase replacement software and strengthen its software management practices. "Raising awareness and providing the tools and resources necessary to help companies better manage their software has always been a BSA priority," said Jenny Black, Director of Enforcement for BSA. "We hope that this settlement will highlight for others the high price of infringement and the importance of compliance". Businesses trying to determine whether their organization is using unlicensed software can download the free software audit tools at [www.bsaaudit.com](http://www.bsaaudit.com). Software piracy can result in fines of up to \$150,000 for each software title copied and increases the risk for security and technical complications.



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## REDUCED LANES I-70 TUNNEL IN COLORADO

There's going to be a major bottleneck in Interstate 70 in Colorado this summer. According to the Denver Post, the Glenwood Canyon Tunnel is going to be reduced from four lanes to two lanes once work begins to repair crack that's developed in the ceiling of the east bound side. About 17,000-truck and cars presently use the tunnel each day, according to the Post. The eastbound side is expected to be closed for the entire summer, and there's really not a good detour in the area.

### TRUCKING TIP OF THE WEEK

#### 395.8 Driver's record of duty status-Interpretations

How should a change of duty status for a short period of time be shown on the driver's record of duty status?

*Short periods of time (less than 15 minutes) may be identified by drawing a line from the appropriate on-duty (not driving) or driving line to the remarks section and entering the amount of time, such as "6 minutes," and the geographic location of the duty status change.*

## HOUSE OKS MEXICAN TRUCK RESTRICTIONS

The House of Representatives voted 411 to 3 to codify requirements that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration must meet to execute a NAFTA program that would allow 100 Mexican trucking companies unfettered access to U.S. roads. The House passed the Safe American Roads Act of 2007, also know as H.B.1773. Rep. Peter Defazio (D-OR), a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said the bill would:

- Ensure DOT analyzes the impact of Mexican trucks operating in the U.S.
- Authorize DOT to undertake a pilot program of up to three years
- Allow no more that 1,000 Mexican-domiciled trucks to participate in the program
- Require a public notice and commenting period before the program proceeds
- Require that the DOT report the findings of the program to Congress
- Sets grounds for termination if the program fails to comply with and provision of the bill

The bill will be referred to the Senate. "Whether the Senate will decide to take up this legislation, some other legislation or rely on its language in the emergency supplemental bill is up to [Senate] leadership," Jim Berard, spokesman for the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said. (FleetOwner)

## MD LAW NIXES SHIPPERS' HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSES

On April 10, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley (D) signed House Bill 898, which prohibits shippers in the state from including "hold harmless" clauses in their contracts with motor carriers. Other states that have enacted similar measures include Indiana, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The new law, which takes effect in October, will prevent carriers from becoming insurer for the shipper, according to the Maryland Motor Truck Association. Previously, some shippers, had required signed indemnity agreements before carriers were permitted to enter loading facilities, essentially forcing truckers to hold shippers harmless before allowed to transport freight.

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