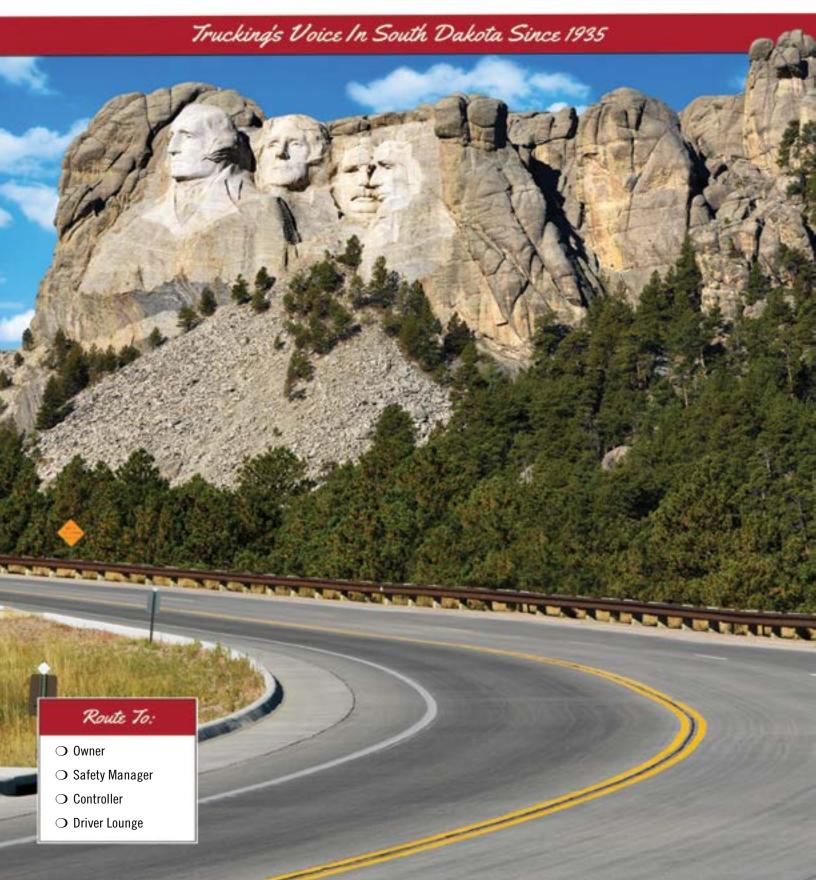
# Trucking News THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION OF THE







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# TRUCKING NEWS



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SDTA Chairman Jerry Ollerich thanks Tom Murphy, Parker Transfer & Storage, Sioux Falls (SDTA Executive Board Member) for his guest article!



### From the desk of Executive Board Member Tom Murphy

The week of June 25-July 1 was an interesting one to say the least.

As you are all aware, supply issues continue to put pressure on input prices to the trucking industry. I have seen this firsthand in mul-

tiple truck stops during my recent travels, so I thought I would dig in a little further and see what the actual challenges are and if there are any real solutions.

The big concern right now is availability of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF). So what exactly is DEF and what does it do? Well, this product is a necessary component to any medium and heavy duty diesel engine manufactured after 2010. DEF is injected into the exhaust stream of the engine to turn harmful emissions into nitrogen and water. The DEF system itself is a way to meet EPA standards without hindering engine performance or fuel efficiency. DEF is comprised of 32.5% urea and 67.5% deionized water. DEF is commonly sold at the fuel island from a separate pump or in gallon jugs at retail locations. A challenge with DEF is shelf life. Since it has no preservatives, it's only good for about a year. And it should be stored between 40-80 degrees. For most companies, going out and purchasing pallets of 1 gallon jugs or a bulk tank is really not an option for those reasons alone.

So, with a little further investigating, I looked into the world's largest producers of urea. Russia tops that list. China is 4th. The current state of the global economy, as well as the war in Ukraine, has put upward price pressure on urea. Anyone in the agricultural industry will tell you that the price of fertilizer is being pushed upward as well, and urea is a big component of a lot of fertilizer products. This is definitely a global situation, and there are so many factors and moving pieces to the global economy that there is not a simple fix to this challenge.

Michael Brooks reached out to me on June 25. Michael is a Senior Agricultural Advisor for Senator Rounds in Washington, D.C. We had a great conversation as to how vital DEF was to not only agriculture, but to the trucking industry. Much of the conversation had an educational component from both directions. I reiterated to Michael that I had seen truck stops, particularly in the Southeastern US, that were completely out of DEF both at the pump and inside the truck stops. I informed Michael that our diesel engines will not run without this product; it is as vital as the diesel fuel itself. We talked about international economics and the global economy trying to regroup and

(Continued on page 13)

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# Christine's Corner

With half of the year behind us, I have reflected back on where the year has gone. The weather has been crazy with all the high wind storms, hail and random downpours. My hope is that all of your personal homes and business properties and trucks have been spared from damage. Over the 4th of July weekend, I sought refuge at the Madison exit gas station with 3 boys while the storm blew through. I'm not sure any of them minded as they filled up on soda, candy and beef jerky while we waited for almost 2 hours along side a handful of truckers that pulled off as well

As I look back at a chapter that I recently closed, I can't help but mention that in this write up. For the last 10 years I served in a couple different public service roles and I am so grateful for the experience. I served in the State House of Representatives District 11 for 2 years, followed by 8 years on the Sioux Falls City Council. Often times people would ask me why in the world would I do that....and my response is always the same...I know right? All joking aside, my reason was and always will be to serve this great state. We have so much going right, even though we see so much hate in the news lately. I wouldn't trade my time being able to serve, influence and connect with so many people not just in Sioux Falls, but across the state. It can be a thankless role, but one you can learn so much about others - yourself too for that matter. I am grateful the board allowed me to finish my full term while I took on the role of President for SDTA. While my last day on the Council was May 17, I will always have a heart for those that want to serve in some sort of capacity. I encourage you to find your sweet spot and serve on a volunteer board within your city, schools, county or state.

I am excited to announce that we have locked in an upcoming NextGen Mixer on August 3rd, starting at 4:00 p.m. NextGen activities provide an opportunity for companies to invite some of their 'younger' up and coming employees to meet others in the industry. This is a chance for you as regular and allied members to bring in others that may not know much about SDTA and introduce them to our network. I am opening my home for you all to come in grab a snack and a cocktail in a causal setting. Look for more information to be sent on this soon.

Lastly, several of the Executive Board Members will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to meet with our Federal Delegation for our Call on Washington toward the end of July. Look for our report the following month.

As always if there is anything we can do for you our members do not hesitate to reach out.

Onward,

Christine Erickson

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Nathan Waldner, Agtegra, Aberdeen, SD, was selected as the July 2022 Driver of the Month by the South Dakota Safety Management Council.

Nathan has been a professional truck driver for 25 years, 14 logged with Agtegra. He has accumulated over 2 million miles.

Nathan will go above and beyond to make sure whatever needs to be hauled gets done. Last minute, weekend, long hours - it doesn't matter to him. He will step up and get it hauled.

Nathan takes very good care of his truck and trailers. Because of this, he is rarely not running. His attitude towards work is great and he's always willing to lend a hand for another driver. He's an exemplary employee and driver.

Nathan resides in Aberdeen, SD. He is the proud parent of one daughter, Emily Waldner, age 15.

The South Dakota Trucking Association joins the Safety Management Council in congratulating Nathan Waldner for being selected as the July 2022 Driver of the Month.

Sponsors of Driver of the Month Program:

# WORKFORCE

Occupational Health and Medical Services

& SDTA'S SAFETY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



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President

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or on page 23 of this publication.

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### SDTA's 87th Annual Convention September 14, 15 & 16, 2022

**HOTEL HEADQUARTERS - ROOM BLOCK RELEASED AUGUST 9TH:** 

Convention Headquarters: Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, SD 605-559-0386 Overflow Hotel: Holiday Inn Express: 22 Lee Street, Deadwood, SD 57732 605-578-3330

| Company:   | E-mail:                 |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Address:   | Phone:                  |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| City/State/Zip:  |                         |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| Please indicate the activities in which  | n each inc              | dividual       | will be pa   | rticipatir | ıg.                |            |             |
| PRINT NAME AS IT WILL APPEAR ON  | 9/14/22                 | 9/15/22        | 9/15/22      | 9/15/22    | 9/16/22            | 9/16/22    | 9/16/22     |
| NAME TAG. LIST EACH SEPARATELY.  | Dinner &                | Calt           | ATV          | Dinner &   | Drackfoot          | مامسيا     | Donavist    |
| Mark events you plan to attend with an "X"   | Poker Run               | Golf           | Riding       | Football   | Breakfast          | Lunch      | Banquet     |
| Name   |                         |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| Spouse/Guest   |                         |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| Name   |                         |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| Spouse/Guest   |                         |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| Name   |                         |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| Spouse/Guest   |                         |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| <ul> <li>Non-SDTA Member \$180</li> <li></li> <li>We would like to SPONSOR at the following</li> </ul> | owing leve              | <br>2 *:       |              |            | ION FEES           | : <u>Þ</u> |             |
|  | ¬ GOLD                  |                | 3 SILVER     |            | BRONZE             |            | OTHER       |
| \$1500 and up \$1000 - \$1,499<br>\$   | \$750- \$9              | 999            |              | 49         | \$250 - \$49<br>\$ |            | \$1 - \$249 |
| □ DISPLAY A BANNER   |                         |                |              |            |                    |            |             |
| For sole sponsorship opportunities call the SD'  | TA office for           | <u>pricing</u> | TOT          | AL SPONS   | SORSHIP:           | \$         |             |
| Ve would like to be an EXHIBITOR*: (   | (includes               | one free       | registration | on)        |                    |            |             |
| DISPLAY SPACE DOUBLE SPACE \$600 -10' BOOTH \$900  | <b>□ TRIP</b>  <br>\$11 | LE SPACE<br>00 | OUTS         | IDE DISPLA | Y: TRAC'<br>\$500  |            |             |
| Display Times: Wednesday 5:00 - 6:30 pr.   | n / Thursday            | y 4:30 - 6     | 5:00 pm / Fr | iday 5:00  | - 6:30 pm          |            |             |
|  |                         |                | то           | TAL BOO    | ΓΗ FEES:           | \$         |             |

<sup>\*</sup>INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 31, 2022 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CONVENTION PROGRAM

|   | THURSDAY'S OPTIONS  |
|---|---|
| September 15, 2022. A contine   | SDTA has scheduled a golf outing at The Spearfish Canyon Golf Club, on Thurso tal breakfast will be available at the golf course. Registration runs from 8:00 - |
| 3:45 a.m Shotgun start at 9:00  | a.m. Lunch provided. Participants split up unless specified.  |
|   | golf course located at: 120 Spearfish Canyon Rd, Spearfish, SD 57783  |
|   | (if attending convention) - \$160 PER GOLFER (if not attending convention)  |
| ame   |   |
| ame   | Name  TOTAL GOLF FEE: \$  |
|   | TOTAL GOLI TEL. \$  |
| ☐ I would like to spon  | Sor golf hole(s) at \$150 per hole Available on first come first served basis. Sponsorship received after 18 holes are taken will be placed elsew               |
|   | GOLF HOLE SPONSORSHIP: \$   |
|   |   |
| he ride will start promtly at 8:00  | vailable. Be prepared to be at Mystic Hills Hideway <b>NO LATER THAN 7:45 am.</b> a.m. Lunch provided / Number of lunches needed:                               |
| he ride will start promtly at 8:00 RANSPORTATION ON YOUR ON \$110 PER RIDER (if attending check rental equipment if need ame  | a.m. Lunch provided / Number of lunches needed:   |
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REFUNDS WILL NOT BE ISSUED AFTER AUGUST 31, 2022

Authorized Signature:

## **CONVENTION AGENDA**



HITAL REGMETITES WARDENGEW

To Kick off the fun at this year's Convention SDTA will be hosting our own version of "Let's Make A Deal" before heading down Main Street Deadwood for our Pub Crawl.

We are looking for donated prizes to award to the participants.

If your company has an item(s) they would like to donate, please contact Michelle Wells at:

michelle@southdakotatrucking.com

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#### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

A.M.

8:00 Open for Booth Setup - Setup prior to 4:00 p.m.

P.M.

3:00 Registration Desk Opens

5:00 Vendor Appreciation & Social

6:30 Dinner

7:00 Let's Make A Deal Game

8:00 Pub Crawl

#### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

A.M.

7:45 ATV Riders at Mystic Hills Hideaway to register for rides - transportation on own (Ride starts at 8 am)

8:00 Registration & Check-in at The Spearfish Canyon Golf Course - transportation on own (Shotgun start at 9)

P.M.

4:00 Registration Desk Opens

4:30 Social & Visit Displays

6:00 Dinner - award golf prizes

7:20 Football & Fun: Chiefs vs. Chargers on big-screen with Cornhole Tournament

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

A.M.

7:45 Registration Desk Opens

8:00 Breakfast

• Formal Opening 87th Annual Convention

Welcome

SDTA and SDTA Services Inc. Annual Meetings

8:30 <u>Business Session 1:</u> ATA VP of Safety, Dan Horvath

10:00 Business Session 2: Rotating Open Forum Sessions

1) Updates from SD Highway Patrol

2) SDTA Safety Management Council - What is It?

3) SD Motor Vehicle Division - Darrin Garry

4) Job Descriptions - What Do They Mean When it Comes To Workers Compensation?

12:00 Awards Luncheon

• Fleet safety awards

• SDHP Annual Safety Award Presentation

P.M.

1:30 Business Session 3: TBD

2:30 Driver of the Year Interviews

3:00 Heavy Duty Truck Dealer Meeting

4:00 NextGen Meeting and Social

5:00 Capitol Club Reception - By Invitation Only

5:00 Social & Visit Displays

6:30 Chairman's Banquet

• Pride of the Show

• Safety Director of the Year

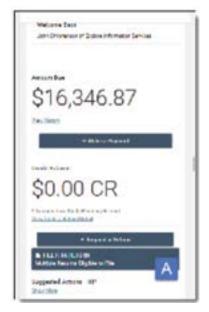
Chairman's Award

• Driver of the Year Presentation

Passing of the Gavel

# Filing an IFTA Return on your Smart Phone Using the New Motor Carrier Connect System Starting October 1

Darrin Gerry — Revenue Supervisor Motor Carrier



As many of you know, the new Motor Carrier Connect System will be launching on September 12, 2022. Beginning October 1, 2022, one of the new features is the ability to file IFTA returns on a smart phone. We know our users are mobile and stopping to file returns is not always easy. For operators not using a service to file returns, the new system will allow them to use their smart phone to file the IFTA return when they are stopped.

The screenshot to the left is an example of what a user will see when logging into the system. In this example, the account has a balance due and could be paid right from the application. However, at the bottom of the screenshot is a "widget" highlighted with the letter "A" in the screenshot. Simply clicking on the link will take the user to the IFTA return. If the operator has outstanding returns, the link will take the user to a list of outstand-

ing returns and the user can select one to file.

Once a return has been selected, the next screen that will appear is the Fuel Schedule Summary. For operators with more than one fuel type, the type of fuel will need to be selected. Most operators only have diesel and will click on the plus (+) sign next to the fuel type to open the schedule to file. Operators will then need to select an "Action" by choosing either to Edit or Set No Operations (as depicted by the red 2 in the image to the right). Selecting "Edit" will open the schedule to enter the total miles and total fuel



for the quarter for the fuel type being filed. Scroll down to enter any non-IFTA miles or fuel (if the unit operated in a jurisdiction with an exemption or "tax holiday"). Continue scrolling to the Jurisdictions section. Any jurisdictions reported on the last return will already be listed. Users can add additional United States and Canadian jurisdictions in this section not currently listed. Enter the miles and gallons for each jurisdiction the unit traveled and purchased fuel in.



Once all the jurisdictions and fuel have been entered, select the Save and Calculate Taxes button (red 8). This will show a summary of the information that will be filed. When finalized, select the File button. Once the return has been filed, if an amount owed is calculated then the user can proceed to the payment screens and submit the amount due.

#### <u>IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:</u>

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2022** 

5:00 PM (central) - Current system will be down

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2022** 

8:00 AM (central) - New system will be open for business.

# From the desk of Executive Board Member Tom Murphy continued ...

reset from the recent pandemic. The war in Ukraine has exasperated the situation even further, as Russia is essentially one big gas station for petroleum and other vital products related to our industry. So we have to look to other countries to help supplement our demand, but that's a challenge as well. This conversation with Michael was great from both sides, and Michael indicated that this issue is an "all hands on deck" situation for their office, and that the DEF shortage is real.

Later that same day, I had been invited by the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce to attend a session with Senator Thune's staff. I expected just a couple of people, but a total of 8 were at this meeting. In addition to myself, there were several business people representing a diverse range of businesses. We discussed such topics as carbon pipeline authority, medical cuts (particularly to the elderly), infrastructure, and mental health. I believe my comments made a very big impression and caught the attention of the whole room. I asked about the current DEF shortage and we talked about it for several minutes. They indicated that there is "definitely" a DEF shortage and that this was high on their radar. But again, this is a global economic issue and there isn't a "flip a switch and it will be fixed" scenario.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Geoff Antell (Thune's Chief of Staff) and I had a separate conversation where I reiterated that if we don't find some so-

lutions soon, we will again be back to empty store shelves and yet another constraint on the supply chain. He agreed with my comments and we agreed to keep in communication.

On Wednesday 6-27, Michael Brooks contacted me again. He had brainstormed some ideas and had some more questions. Among those was: What if you (we) were to bypass the DEF system, or what would be the side effects? So I contacted a mechanic. This bypass has been done in recent memory, when there was a sensor supply shortage. All trucks coming into the shop for this bypass would have to be logged into a database and then once the shortage subsided, were contacted to come back to the shop and have the system activated again. There are other ways to bypass the system, but those methods would be unscrupulous. In business and in this industry, we have a responsibility to operate as professionals and to abide by the regulations set forth by the federal government, regardless of our personal feelings. After talking with a mechanic, I got back to Michael saying that his suggestion would be feasible, but we need to make sure that any such legislation is written properly to make sure there aren't any unintended consequences or added pieces to this challenge, to which he agreed. I thanked Michael, and Senator Rounds' office, for their time and attention to this situation, as this DEF shortage has far reaching implications.

On Friday 7/1, I was again invited to the SF Chamber for a bi-partisan meeting with Rep. Johnson and Rep. Phillips (D-MN). They opened by asking the group of mostly small business people what concerns and challenges we were seeing and if we could put the political parties aside and work together to find some solutions. They both indicated that there is too much infighting in Washington without enough action or results. What a breath of fresh air! I was asked to speak and the topics that I hit on were: better promotion of the trades/technical colleges, roads and bridges/infrastructure, and DEF/other input costs. We had a great conversation about how we need more automotive technicians, drivers, welders, etc. This is an educational component where we need to be getting in front of our future workers and leaders and make sure that the message is clear: there is a need and these are good paying careers. Our SDTA road team has done a great job in pushing that message to a younger audience, and will continue to do so. On the infrastructure piece, we discussed electric vehicles, the power grid in the USA, and the current timeline. Someday we will have electric combines and tractors, but 2035 may be a stretch. Both of these gentlemen are aware of the DEF shortage and it is very high on their radar.

In conclusion, I feel very strongly that some great conversa-

(Continued on page 14)

### From the desk of Executive Committee Member Tom Murphy continued...

tions were had and that there were some good learning opportunities from both sides in all of these interactions. I think that our congressional delegation is on our side and feels our pain with rising input costs, availability of labor, and concern for our infrastructure (particularly roads and bridges). It's great to know that our delegation is willing to listen to our concerns and get to work on some solutions for us, as we don't want to lose any small businesses/trucking companies to the current economic struggles. Small business and trucking are the backbone of America. Our delegation understands that and I feel strongly that we always will have a place at the table and their undivided attention.

Sometimes folks ask me: Why should I join the SDTA? The week that I have just outlined is a perfect example. By joining SDTA, you have a seat at the table and the undivided attention of those that create policy. It's important that those folks have all the input they need in order to create a road map moving forward. We all know that if you don't have a seat at the table, you are left picking the crumbs.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Tom Murphy

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#### Transport Topics

#### Skin, Musculoskeletal Health Essential for Truck Drivers

Reprinted from Transport Topics | June 27, 2022 2:00 PM, EDT



For drivers, especially this summer season, sun overexposure is a constant when driving long hours at a time. (Arndt\_Vladimir via Getty Images)

When truck driver health care comes to mind, most think of cardiovascular or weight issues. However, skin care and musculo-skeletal well-being are also growing concerns.

As for skin care, the amount of exposure to sunlight and ultraviolet (UV) rays is a prominent factor in proper health maintenance. Although a casual amount of sun exposure provides healthy doses of Vitamin D, too much exposure causes skin damage and could lead to skin cancer. To protect over-the-road drivers, the front windshield is built to shield against the most dangerous UV rays; however, there is no equivalent protection on the driver-side window.

At his practice, Dr. Scott Fosko, a Jacksonville, Fla.-based dermatologist, noticed that many of his patients with skin cancer have asymmetric damage to the left side of their heads and necks.



"Over time, a driver who spends a lot of time behind a wheel could be at an increased risk for skin cancer."

-Dr. Scott Fosko

Through collaborative research, he and a colleague published data in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, finding that facial cancers were more prevalent on the left side of the face, consistent with where Americans sit to drive. Specifically, 74% had lentiginous melanoma — a variant found on sun-damaged skin of limbs — on the left side, which supported cumulative exposure over time.

Fosko explained, as the least dangerous UV ray, UVB rays cause sunburns at overexposure, but UVA rays penetrate more deeply and contribute to photoaging.

"This is relevant because glass tends to filter ultraviolet B but does not filter ultraviolet A," he said. "Over time, a driver who spends a lot of time behind a wheel could be at an increased risk for skin cancer."

Fosko added that melanoma is known as the deadliest form of skin cancer, although it is very curable if caught early. Other forms of common skin cancer, basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell, often progress and also are curable if diagnosed early. Those with fairer complexions are most at risk.

"Squamous cell is slow growing but can be more aggressive and a little higher risk of becoming metastatic," he explained, recommending skin protection through self-exams and annual dermatology visits.

For drivers, especially this summer season, sun overexposure is a constant when driving long hours at a time. Fosko contends that the first step is to become aware of the risks.

"We tend to think of needing to protect skin at the beach, but be aware that the risk is real, and the exposure is real," he said. "Over time, the exposure does add up; for a professional driver, it is magnified."

Fosko suggested drivers, particularly those with fair complexions, wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen that protects against both UVA and UVB rays, and wear protective clothing, as well as a widebrim hat. In addition, they should not ignore changes or suspicious areas that appear on their skin.

Drivers also can use tinted window films known for filtering out the most harmful of the sun's rays that can go right through window glass, even on a cloudy day.

"The windshield is not a big deal because it has laminated glass that effectively blocks the damaging rays, but the UV rays are a particular concern in the side windows, or if someone has the truck windows rolled down," said Randy Garcia, a technical specialist with Avery Dennison, headquartered in Mentor, Ohio.

"UVB is blocked by glass; UVA comes through glass, and our films block those UVA rays," he said. He added that not only can the window tinting products reduce the UV damage that can occur, it can do a significant job

(Continued on page 19)



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#### Skin, Musculoskeletal Health Essential for Truck Drivers

continued...

of reducing excessive heat coming through the glass. The products can be retrofitted on existing glass at an aftermarket shop.

Garcia also noted that each state has its own window tinting laws that allow for a specific percentage of visible light allowed through a vehicle's windows.

#### **Neck and Back Pain**

As driving is a sedentary activity without much opportunity for change of position, truck driv-



ers are prone to aches and pains as a result.

The most common complaint from a musculoskeletal standpoint is lower

back pain. "A lot of drivers aren't using the lumbar support properly in their trucks. This is one of the most physically demanding things you can do: Driving down the road, with constant vibration on the disk causes a lot of low back pain, and if you're not sitting with proper posture, being in a bad position all day long can cause pinched nerves, pulled muscles, aches and sciatica," said Dr. Bethany Dixon, owner of Drivers Health Clinic, with two locations inside truck stops in Florida.

Dixon said she also sees a lot of repetitive motion issues in shoulders and necks. Poor posture can also lead to neck pain and headaches, while improper lifting can cause injury as well. Even hitting one pothole can jar the back and cause problems. Long-term, these issues can be problematic.

"If you don't start fixing the small

problems, they definitely can transition into a large problem," she noted, adding that, for example, a low back issue can turn into disc issues, arthritis and chronic daily pain.

Akin to a pre-trip truck inspection, Dixon created a personal pre-trip for truckers, a seven- to 11-minute routine that drivers should undergo before a long drive. "Stretching is key; you are less prone to injury if you stretch. If you have good posture while you're driving, you're much less likely to have chronic injuries," she said.

Armrests are very important, Dixon added, and they should be positioned so that they are at a comfortable distance so that a driver is not putting constant repetitive pressure on necks and shoulders.

"If you don't have proper lumbar support, the back of the disc is being pushed in a direction it shouldn't," she explained. "Chronically pushing on a nerve can cause it to become pinched/impinged, and then chronically, you end up with pain going down to the leg and the feet."

#### **Proper Seating**

Making sure the seat fits correctly is a major key in preventing back and neck injuries.



Some trucks are outfitted with an ergonomically designed seat with an optimized suspension and a high degree of adjustability. Sears Seating, a manufacturer headquartered in lowa, has developed a seat with features that can adjust for the operator. These adjustable features include "seat height, seat tilt, cushion adjustment for the legs and back, bolsters to hug the operator, and different mechanisms to decrease and increase lumbar support," said Jeff Linnberg, Sears Seating's advanced engineering manager.

Also, having a seat with optimized suspension mitigates the effects of certain harmful vibrations.

"Not only does the seat have to keep the driver safe for many hours but also that split second that they go over a bump or a hit a log," said Wayne Ward, Sears Seating's vice president of engineering.

Still, despite all the engineering and research that goes into a driving seat, it is not without its challenges. Designing a product for the different body makeups of all truck drivers can be challenging, from taller, heavier men, to smaller, thinner women. Another challenge, added Ward, is that customers cannot describe what is comfortable, but they can describe what is uncomfortable.

There are also driver rehabilitation specialists who can help a truck driver do a comprehensive driving evaluation, testing clinical abilities and performance on the road.

(Continued on page 21)

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#### Skin, Musculoskeletal Health Essential for Truck Drivers

continued...

says Elin Schold Davis, Coordinator Older Driver Initiative with the American Occupational Therapy Association. Depending on the issue, this specialist can point a driver in the right direction to the proper specialist or occupational therapist and do ergonomic consultations — helping to evaluate whether any physical equipment in a vehicle needs to be modified or prescribing a different seating

system.

Dixon added that overall health is also a big factor in preventing pain. For example, being significantly overweight could make a driver more prone to inflammatory issues, so good, healthy eating is important too. The more inflammatory foods you eat (think white sugar and refined white four), the more pain you will have. "You can't have a million-dollar body

on a 99-cent menu, so pay attention to what you are eating," said Dixon.

It is counterintuitive to a prevention approach to keep doing something until it causes pain. "The best time to start habits is in the very beginning, because it's hard to break a bad habit," she said. "Invest in yourself. You only have one body; you're not going to get a replacement."

#### Transport Topics







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| Driver o                                     | the Month Nominatio   | n Form & Rules  |
|--|---|---|
| Date   |   | Jacket Size   |
|  |   | Age   |
| Marital Status                               |   | Spouse Name   |
| Residence                                    |   |   |
| Address (in full)                            |   |   |
| Children & Ages                              |   |   |
| Name of Carrier                              |   |   |
| Home Terminal                                |   |   |
| Address (in full)                            |   |   |
| Phone Number                                 |   |   |
| Years Employed by Present Employer           |   | Total Years of Experience   |
| Type of Equipment Operated: 🗖 Truck 🗖 Tr     | tor-Semitrailer 🗖 Doubles 🗖 Other   | Type of Driving: ☐ Over the Road ☐ City ☐ Other   |
| Total Mileage                                |   |   |
| Mileage with Present Employer                |   |   |
|  |   |   |
|  |   | uth Dakota or any other state?  Yes  No If yes, when?   |
| Participation in truck driving championship  | or other transportation related activiti  | <b>e</b> S:   |
| Basis of Nomination:                         |   |   |
| Convention where the driver will participate | a personal interview. Drivers not beir<br>ay afternoon during the convention. V | th, to the South Dakota Trucking Association Annual<br>og interviewed will not be eligible for the Driver of the Year<br>Vith this entry, the company agrees to submit Driver of the<br>ota Driver of the Year. |
| Submitted by:                                | Title:  |   |

#### RULES:

Driver may be nominated for Driver of the Month for any outstanding act of heroism, a contribution to highway safety, an extraordinary act of courtesy, an exceptional deed or act of service to mankind within the community reflecting positively on the motor carrier industry, or for a long period of safe and courteous driving. An outstanding act shall be deemed to mean unusual or other than the normal every day courtesies afforded by truck drivers.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- 1. The nominated driver must be an employee of a member in good standing of the South Dakota Trucking Association.
- 2. The nominated driver must have been an employee by the present employer for at least two years and have a minimum of five years overall experience.
- 3. South Dakota domiciled\* drivers are eligible for nomination for an outstanding act performed in any state. \* The intent of the word "domiciled" shall be interpreted to mean: Any driver reporting to or regularly dispatched from a terminal within the state of SD (in keeping with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations definition of his/her home terminal) regardless of where the driver may dwell.
- 4. A driver may receive the Driver of the Month award only one time in any contest year. He/she may be renominated in any subsequent year.
- 5. Nominations for outstanding acts on the highway shall be accompanied by supporting evidence (letters, statements, news clippings, etc.). A clear, factual account is absolutely necessary. Vague generalizations will not be accepted.
- 6. A copy of recent driver motor vehicle record check must accompany the nomination.
- 7. Drivers nominated and not selected as Driver of the Month will be held over and used in the following month's selection.
- 8. Entries must be in the SDTA office no later than the 10th of each month for that current month's contest.
- 9. Nominations may be made by any party, but must be approved by the employer or a representative of the employer.
- 10. The annual contest will run from September of the previous year through August of the current year.
- 11. Company agrees to submit a professional head and shoulders photo of the winning driver.

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- SDTA Call on Washington July 25-29, 2022.
- Annual SDTA Convention Deadwood Mountain Grand September 14-16, 2022
- Annual guided pheasant hunt Thursday, November 10, 2022 Meet @ Hutch's Cafe in Presho 9:00 a.m.
- SDTA Fall Board of Directors Meeting Executive Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. with the full board to convene at 10:00 a.m. all at RedRossa, Pierre, SD on Friday, November 11, 2022.
- West River Legislative Reception 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Minerva's in Rapid City - November 29, 2022.
- East River Legislative Reception (NextGen Group meeting at 4:30) Minerva's in Sioux Falls Thursday, December 1, 2022, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- Winter Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023 at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Pierre. Followed by the Winter Board of Directors Meeting at 12:30 p.m. The Winter Reception with Legislators will follow at 6:00 p.m. All events of the day are scheduled at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center in Pierre.



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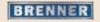






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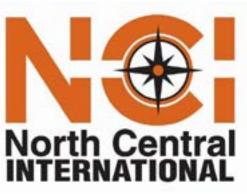
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