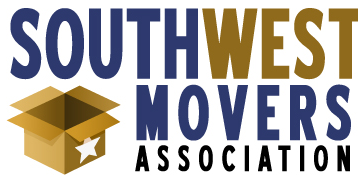


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MOVEFAX

February 5, 2010

Dear SMA Member:

"I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by." Douglas Adams

Don't let the SMA/GHMA combined lunch meeting, golf outing, and SMA membership meeting dates whoosh right by you.

The MOVEFax is a bulletin of immediate information for SMA members. To the extent possible, staff attempts to provide meaningful news and ideas to keep the membership informed, however, news from the members of acquisitions, promotions, awards, etc., are welcome and they will be published as space is available.

Thanks,

Dorothy Brooks
Director of Operations

Mark your Calendars for April GHMA/SMA Joint Meeting

The Greater Houston Movers Association (GHMA) and Southwest Movers Association (SMA) are teaming up to offer the GHMA Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament and monthly meeting in conjunction with the April Spring Membership Meeting of SMA. Members are encouraged to attend; it is not just a meeting of committees or a board meeting - it is a member meeting. If you are a member, you are invited; we would like to see you there. There is no charge to attend; this is an excellent opportunity to network with other members and really find out how SMA works. Find out how you can direct and support your association in ways that better serve members by simply attending the meetings. Staff and other members look forward to seeing you there.

Separately, we are forwarding the GHMA Golf Classic letter and registration form. Please complete ASAP and notify David Tripp, (GHMA) of your intended participation and/or sponsorship. Jointly, SMA and GHMA are looking forward to a record breaking event.

Watch for further communication on the joint SMA/GHMA meeting in April. Just remember there will be no cost for attending the meetings and no cost for the joint lunch! We want to see you there!

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EPA Issues Final Rule on Renewable Fuel Standard

EPA issued a final rule today implementing the National Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2) program, including changes required by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). The new RFS2 contains specific fuel categories and new greenhouse gas (GHG) emission thresholds. Of particular interest to motor carriers is a new biomass-based diesel category, which requires a 50 percent GHG reduction compared to ultra low sulfur diesel. EPA believes that soy-based biodiesel and renewable diesel from waste oils, fats and greases will meet the 50 percent GHG reduction requirement. EPA will require 1.15 billion gallons of biomass-based diesel to be used in 2010; however, any biodiesel consumed in 2009 will count toward this requirement.

OSHA Proposes New Rule for Employers

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register that would require employers to record work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSDs) in a proposed new column on the OSHA injury and illnesses reporting log. The proposal defines WMSDs as "disorders of the muscles, nerves, tendons, ligaments, joints, cartilage and spinal discs." The NPRM also emphasizes that WMSDs do not include disorders caused by slips, trips, falls, motor vehicle accidents, or other similar accidents. The NPRM includes specific examples of WMSDs. OSHA will hold a public hearing on March 9 in Washington, D.C. Comments are due to OSHA by March 15.

Ban on Texting - Information for Companies

In light of the federal ban on texting by commercial motor vehicle drivers, it has been suggested to TMTA and SMA by attorney John Greene to minimize the risk and exposure of companies by performing the below tasks: document that you have advised your drivers of the new law and that drivers have been advised that company policy strictly forbids any texting while the vehicle is in motion and forbids any other activity which might distract the driver from operating the vehicle in a safe manner. This can be documented, by having a form to that effect signed by the driver, returned and kept in the driver's file. It would also be a good idea to incorporate this topic into your next safety meetings for the drivers and document that the issue was covered in the meeting.

Cargo Theft on the Rise

FreightWatch International announced in its 2009 Annual Cargo Theft Report that cargo theft industry wide rose by 12 percent from 2008 to an average of 72 cargo theft incidents per month. Florida, California and Texas are the top states at high risk for cargo theft. Truck stops are the main location of theft, but there has been an increase in theft from distribution lots and secured terminals. Electronics is the industry most heavily hit by cargo theft followed by the food and drink industry.

Members are reminded to let us know if your equipment is stolen. The association is here to assist in recovery through our Stolen Equipment Alerts that are released to TMTA/SMA members, law enforcement and Homeland Security officials.

To view FreightWatch International's Theft Review, visit:
<http://www.freightwatchintl.com/>

TxDMV Advises BBB's to Check the Legality of Movers

Applying for Membership

Last month, when SMA got its new member list from the Austin BBB, there were two companies listed as movers. Their status with TxDMV was checked to reveal that one's license was only transitional and the second had no registration at all. SMA filed a complaint with the BBB and with TxDMV. TxDMV followed up with a formal investigation of the two operators posing as movers. The BBB also called and said they would contact their new members about their status (or lack thereof) with TxDMV. Today, SMA received a copy of an email from TxDMV addressed to the BBB's in Houston, Dallas and Austin areas, that provided those BBB's with the specific steps to take for access to the DMV website to check the legal status of a transportation company applying for membership. The email also advised that if the status showed anything except "Active", such as Revoked, Transitional, Expired or Incomplete, they are not legal to operate in Texas. For members wanting to check the status of any operator moving household goods in Texas, here are the steps to navigate the TxDMV website:

1. Go to the TxDMV website www.dmv.state.tx.us
2. Go to Motor Carriers (highlighted in red)
3. Select Records, Searches, Tracking
4. Select Motor Carrier Registration Database
5. Click on the gray bar marked (Enter the MCR Database)
6. At this point you can search by the company name or the motor carrier number. Add the address to your favorites list.

SMA Foundation to Accept Mid-Term Transcripts

The SMA Foundation application for scholarships is posted on the SMA website. The SMA Trustees voted at their September meeting to accept mid-term transcripts with applications. By accepting mid-term transcripts, students will have more time to obtain their letters of recommendation, draft their letters of intent and SMA trustees will have more time to review applications so that funds can be forwarded more timely for the fall registrations. Members who have students (family, employees and employee families) who will be headed to colleges and universities at the end of the current school year are asked to encourage their students to file their application for SMA Scholarships. Download an application at www.mytexasmover.com. The new deadline reply date for submitting scholarship applications is May 14, 2010, so ask your school for a sealed copy of your mid-term transcript now to send with your application.

Trailers for Sale

Garrett Transportation has three trailers for sale. 1989 Kentucky 48'; 1998 Kentucky 50', and a 1999 Kentucky 51'. Call for pricing 800.373.5334.

SMA Event Calendar for 2010

AMSA Education Conference & Expo - Feb. 21-24: Phoenix, AZ
SMA/GHMA Combined Meeting & Golf Tournament - the week of April 12-16: Marriott Town Square Hotel - Sugar Land, TX (Watch for MOVEFax to provide specific details)
National Council of Moving Associations: June 8 -10 - St. Louis, MO
Summer Membership Meeting - July 11-13: Embassy Suites - Hot Springs, AR
Annual Membership Conference - Sept 22-24: Lost Pines Resort and Spa - Bastrop, TX

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