



In This Issue

- MO Lane Restrictions
- More Companies Fall
- National Truck Driving Championships
- Are You Testing Enough?

Want to sign yourself or someone else up to receive this newsletter? Send an email to lnugen@mjai.com and Les will get you added to our list

Websites of Interest

www.recruitingcenter.com
Link to very good resource for ideas to help your driver retention. Also has worksheets that calculate the cost of driver turnover and other tools.

smallcarrieruniversity.com
Webpage to Commercial Carrier University. Contains several well written manuals on trucking management, recruiting, etc. Best of all they are free!

Truckingsafety.org
Michigan Center for Truck Safety. Offers free guidance and training materials for truck safety.

Cashort.com
Provider of safety recognition programs and other incentive programs. Also have several insightful guides on how to change company culture and driver behavior.

New Third Lane Prohibition in Missouri

Effective August 28, Missouri will ban big rigs from driving in the left lane of highways with three or more lanes in a single direction, the Kansas City Star reported. The prohibition will apply only to interstate and other highways in the state's urban areas, the paper reported.

The law is intended to free up traffic by separating faster-moving cars from slower trucks, the Star reported, citing the Missouri Highway Patrol. Other

Two More Area Trucking Companies Fall

Two more area companies have fallen victim to the tough trucking market – CW Johnson Express of Louisville, KY (approximately 80 trucks) and Priority Transportation which had a location in Chesterton, IN (over 700 trucks) have both closed their doors.

“Due to continued high fuel prices, weak freight demand and escalating operating costs, as well as a tight credit market, Priority will be phasing out of most of its over the road operations, which include its trucking operations in Farmington, N.Y. and Chesterton, Ind.,” said Andy Howley, Priority chief executive officer. “We have entered into an agreement with Celadon to assist in the wind-down of operations and to help ensure continuity of customer service.”

Even though this type of news is not unusual in this current climate it always is painful to hear of another group of people who have lost their jobs. If you have locations in either of these areas you may be able to pick up some good driver candidates or office staff that are in need of a new place to call home.

Trucking company bankruptcies more than doubled in the second quarter, soaring 118% from last year as high fuel prices pushed 970 U.S. carriers out of business, a leading industry analyst said. The number of carrier failures in the second quarter was a slight gain from 935 in the first quarter, said Donald Broughton, a stock analyst with Avondale Partners. Broughton estimated that bankruptcies took about 88,000 trucks off the road in the first half of the year, roughly 4.5% of the nation's 2 million heavy-duty tractors.



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National Truck Driving Championships

The National Truck Driving Championships were held recently in Houston, TX. 375 drivers competed from all across the United States. Indiana's team represented us well by placing 2nd overall. **Dennis Shirar from Heritage Transport LLC took 1st place in the straight truck division and was the Grand Champion for 2008!**

This is an outstanding accomplishment by Mr. Shirar and the rest of the Indiana team. The competition at the national level is extremely skilled and tough to beat. Several members of the Marvin Johnson staff serve on the planning committee for the state competition and many others volunteer each year the day of the event, so we are very pleased to see the Indiana team have such great success this year.

Are You Testing Enough?

As the old saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun". 2008 is quickly passing us by, and sometimes things fall through the cracks in the shuffle. Often times some of those things that fall through the cracks are testing enough drivers for random drug and alcohol tests and record keeping. Take the time right now to review your testing program and make sure that you will meet compliance requirements for the year. We have listed a few key items to check below:

- Are you in a consortium or a stand alone program?
- What is your average number of drivers?
- Is your driver list current with your testing provider?
- How many tests should you conduct for the calendar year?
- Are you on track to meet those numbers?
- Have you received your first semi-annual summary from your laboratory/testing provider?
- Was each test that was conducted classified correctly by the collection facility or were there mistakes? For example, were any random tests classified as a pre-employment or vice versa?
- Are any drivers subject to follow-up testing? Are you on track to get all of the follow-up tests completed within the time frame required by the SAP?

If you need help finding the answers to any of these questions or have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact your MJAI loss prevention representative. By taking proactive steps now there is still time to get your drug and alcohol testing program into compliance before the end of the calendar year. This is one of the easiest DOT compliance areas to comply with, but non-compliance carries heavy fines and liability exposures. Please do not let time slip up on you.