



# NEWSBREAK



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Minnesota Professional Towing Association



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### MPTA Board of Directors hosts last minute Tow School on October 26th



Back on October 26th MPTA Board of Directors hosted a last minute Western National Basic Light Duty Training class! MPTA had received communications from MPTA membership and local towing operators about hosting a one-day Light Duty Training class.

As labor continues to be struggle in the towing industry, we are very thankful for our MPTA board Directors squeezing in one last class! Many of the students never towed before or had very little experience. Students were taught the very basics of winching, basic hook ups, use of dollies, working load limits, levers, DOT information, and professionalism.

Thank you to Ron Gardas Jr., Ron Feist and MPTA board members for your time and energy and of course our members for supporting our class and our industry! Thank you to a the Gardas Family for use of their facility and Western National for a great training Season! Until next spring, please be safe and enjoy the winter season!

(continued on page 6)

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efforts, please send your donations to:**

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## Message From MPTA President, Ron Gardas Jr.

What a great year we had in 2021! MPTA hosted four Training Classes, hosted our first MPTA Hall of Fame Ceremony/awards banquet and Roddy Pellow inducted in the International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum. MPTA's annual Elko Picnic was a huge hit once again and cheers to even bigger events in 2022!

This coming year, MPTA is looking forward to seeing Tom Luciano of Miller Towing coming back in the late summer featuring a 2-Day Heavy Duty Training class. Please be on the look-out for more information.

The upcoming legislative session begins on January 31<sup>st</sup> as MPTA still has two bills we are working on. First bill creates a weight limit exemption for towing and recovery vehicles so locally imposed weight restrictions as well as spring load restrictions do not apply to towing vehicles and recovery vehicles in some circumstances. Basically, giving us towers exemption when called upon to work.

The second bill MPTA is working on is amending language as a towing entity who tows or stores a motor vehicle for the value of the vehicle and cargo, storage of the vehicle and cargo along with accident clean-up and shall have the right to retain possession of the motor vehicle and cargo until the lien is fully discharged. Towers are having issues with insurance companies not paying for our storage, clean up fees and other misc. items. We may be contacting our members to lobby their state representatives and Senators on these bills.

I would also love to hear from anyone about any idea's relating to the MPTA, I understand that at times it may be hard to be in the same room as one of your competitors or try to talk to them about business dealings. If someone has never been to a board meeting, I encourage you to come check it out. We all have a vested interest in what happens to the towing industry in Minnesota.

As winter is here so are the dangers of our profession. Please be cautious and safe as you do your job!

I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season!

Ron Gardas Jr.

President – Minnesota Professional Towing Association



## U.S. Consumer Prices Increase further in November

The consumer price index rose 0.8% last month after surging 0.9% in October, the Labor Department said on Friday. In the 12 months through November, the CPI accelerated 6.8%. That was the biggest year-on-year rise since June 1982 and followed a 6.2% advance in October.

Written By: Reuters | Dec. 10, 2021

WASHINGTON, Dec 10 (Reuters) - U.S. consumer prices increased further in November as the cost of goods and services rose broadly amid supply constraints, leading to the largest annual gain since 1982, which could encourage the Federal Reserve to quickly wind down its bond purchases.

The consumer price index rose 0.8% last month after surging 0.9% in October, the Labor Department said on Friday. In the 12 months through November, the CPI accelerated 6.8%. That was the biggest year-on-year rise since June 1982 and followed a 6.2% advance in October.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI climbing 0.7%.

The report followed on the heels of news last week that the unemployment rate fell to a 21-month low of 4.2% in November. Tightening labor market conditions were underscored by a report on Thursday showing new applications for unemployment benefits dropped to the lowest level in more than 52-years last week.

Other data this week showed there were 11 million job openings at the end of October and Americans quit jobs at near-record rates. The tight labor market is boosting wages and supply bottlenecks are showing little sign of easing, indicating that high inflation could persist well into 2022.

"With supply shortages likely to stick around until next year and service-sector prices trending higher, inflation is going to get worse before it gets better," said Sam Bullard, a senior economist at Wells Fargo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said the U.S. central bank should consider speeding up the winding down of its massive bond purchases at its policy meeting next Tuesday and Wednesday. Many economists are expecting an early Fed interest rate increase.

Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the CPI rose 0.5% last month after gaining 0.6% in October. The so-called core CPI jumped 4.9% on a year-on-year basis after increasing 4.6% in October.

The Fed tracks the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, excluding the volatile food and energy components, for its flexible 2% target. The core PCE price index surged 4.1% in the 12 months through October, the most since January 1991. November data will be released later this month.

"A continued trend higher in core inflation creates further hawkish risks for a Fed that has recently become more focused on the inflation side of its mandate, and suggests a rising likelihood of an even earlier first rate hike," said Veronica Clark, an economist at Citigroup in New York





## **eImpound payments have occurred for October entries**

### **Payments for October entries:**

Payments to users for towing and storage entries for the month of October at eImpound.com have occurred via PayPal. **To be paid per VIN submitted, please update your PayPal email account in your account under "Company Information" and "Pay to Email" at [www.eimpound.com](http://www.eimpound.com).** If you did not get paid, it is because you didn't update your PayPal email in your eImpound account or due to **the payment being below \$5.00**. We pay \$1.00 per VIN per lien holder match and \$0.10 per VIN if there is no lien holder match. Please email [john@eimpound.com](mailto:john@eimpound.com), if you would like to get paid and did not receive a payment.

### **What's new at eImpound.com?**

#### **Lien holder and owner information:**

At no cost, receive and view lien holder and owner information from all 50 states DMV databases. Click Actions, then click Create Impound Record or Create Tow / Dispatch Record, and go from there. You can also click Upload Impound File within actions to enter multiple VINs at once.

#### **Towing and Storage management at no cost:**

Towed and stored vehicles can simply be entered, managed, and tracked by clicking "Create Impound Record", "Create Tow / Dispatch Record", "View Tow Records", "View Impound Records" and more.

#### **Invoicing:**

Create, manage, track, produce, and store invoices within the system.

#### **Voiceless dispatch:**

It's simple! Click "Actions", then "Create Tow/Dispatch Record" and go from there. Tow dispatch will send a TEXT MSG link to the driver.

#### **No cost to you:**

Towing and storage software at no cost. Who else can say that?

#### **Certified notifications to lien holders:**

eImpound allows users to send notification letters, documents, forms, pictures, and more to lien holders electronically.

It shows that the notification letter has been sent, received, viewed, and/or responded to by the lien holder as well, which satisfies the requirement in most states of mail notification being sent and tracked to make sure it was received by the lien holder.

Lien holders also have the ability to respond electronically to eImpound users with documents, call them, or email them back.

It's simple - You will see a green button titled "Exchange Files with Lien Holder" in the impound record, **when a lien holder is identified in the eImpound internal lien holder database**. Click that and follow the easy instructions on how to upload documents, forms, pictures, and more and send them electronically. Lien holders have the ability to respond to you electronically as well with documents and more.

This is a game changer saving towing and storage providers money and time in putting together mail notifications and sending them in the snail mail. Its 2021, and it should be free, electronic, and traceable just like this!

**eImpound is becoming an industry game changer, and we appreciate towers being a part of the eImpound family. Please let us know of anything we can do to improve your experience by emailing**

**[john@eimpound.com](mailto:john@eimpound.com).**

# Students Receive “Hands-on” Experience During MPTA’s Basic Light Duty Educational Class Hosted on October 26th!



# Thank You Western National Insurance for sponsoring our 2021 Educational Training Series !





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## **Biden administration announces EV charging network plan**

*Washington* — The Biden administration announced a federal strategy Monday shaping the roll-out of \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging approved through the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

The funding is meant to jump-start the creation of a nationwide network of 500,000 EV chargers nationwide, which industry and officials believe is crucial for making zero-emission vehicles viable for customers.

Under the administration's plan, the departments of Transportation and Energy will create a joint office responsible for providing resources and guidance on EV charging and other electrification provisions in the infrastructure law.

The White House also will issue guidance for states and cities to deploy the network by mid-February and charger standards by mid-May. It also plans to create an advisory committee on electric vehicles in the first three months of 2022 and gather input from local government, industry, advocacy groups and others.

"There can be no doubt the future of transportation in our nation and around the world is electric," Vice President Kamala Harris said during a speech Monday at a maintenance facility in Maryland.

"Our nation's ability to manufacture, charge and repair electric vehicles will determine many things. Including, one, the health of our communities, two, the strength of our economy, and three, the sustainability of our planet."

The administration is also seeking information from domestic automakers and suppliers to identify sources that can meet "Buy American" requirements "and to highlight the benefits of shifting all manufacturing and assembly processes to the United States," according to a White House fact sheet.

Harris said the biggest barrier to consumers buying electric vehicles is concern over where they would charge it, which the administration's plan hopes to address.

"The auto industry is clearly moving toward electric," she said. "We need to make the shift faster and make sure it is driven by the United States."

Automakers are pouring billions of dollars into transitioning their fleets from gas- and diesel-powered vehicles to electric ones, but industry advocates have argued that significant federal help will be necessary to accelerate the transition in order to cut emissions.

That request has fallen upon friendly ears in the Biden administration, which has committed to ending federal purchases of gas-powered cars by 2035 and has set a nationwide goal of 50% EV sales by 2030.

## **ASE FALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) reminds service professionals that fall registration for certification testing is open now through Dec. 31. More than 50 ASE certification tests are offered for automotive, collision, medium/heavy duty, school bus, transit bus

and truck equipment repair, and more. ASE tests are conducted days, nights and weekends at nearly 450 secured, proctored test centers. It is recommended that service professionals coordinate testing with their employers and check test center availability before registering.

Service professionals will always have 90 days from the original date of purchase to schedule an appointment and take their tests at any of several hundred test centers across the country.

To register, sign into myASE at <https://my.ase.com/> or call Prometric at 877-346-9327. Those with active automobile certifications (A1-A9) can also use the ASE Renewal App for recertification, extending the expiration date of their active certifications without having to take time off to go to a test center.

# American Towman Announces 2022 Show Schedule



After having completed the Comeback Tour of 2021, American Towman Magazine has announced its 2022 schedule of shows led by the 33rd American Towman Exposition in Baltimore.

The slate of shows will kick off with TowXpo Fort Worth June 16-18 at the Fort Worth Convention Center. This marks the first time the Texas show will be held in this exciting and highly popular city as the show returns to the greater Dallas/Forth Metroplex. D/FW metro area is the nation's fourth largest in population.

Following the Lone Star State show is a move to the heartland as Mid-America's Tow Show, featuring the Towman Games, officially kicks off the summer July 20-23 at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland. The 2-day show will once again feature live, indoor elite training programs and skills competitions.

September 21-23 will see the American Towman ShowPlace – Las Vegas take center stage at the Westgate Las Vegas Hotel & Events Center as the tow industry's largest and most prestigious tow show in the America West greets suppliers and attendees in the nation's number one destination city.

Rounding out the expos and conferences is the world's largest and most attended show: the American Towman Exposition. The 33rd annual event Nov. 17-19 will fill the rafters of the Baltimore Convention Center with not only exhibitors offering all varieties of products and services for the towing market, but also the largest collection of customized tow trucks on display in the American Wrecker Pageant

“Our 2022 show slate is going to be a can't miss for professional tow business owners from coast to coast who will be able to meet face-to-face with industry suppliers as the country as a whole keeps returning to in-person events,” says Henri “Doc” Calitri, A. T. Expo Corp. president.

He adds, “A.T. shows are known for their first class production which results in the highest quality audience of “tow bosses” who attend our shows. In 2021, we saw a healthy return to live shows and next year promises even bigger and better results for participating vendors.”

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## TOWING ELECTRIC CARS MAY POSE PROBLEMS

Many consumers purchasing electric vehicles as many have already voiced their concerns about the availability of charging stations as well as the longevity and replacement cost of batteries.

But what about towing? There is actually a very specific technique required to tow a stranded EV.

Most of these cars come with front-wheel drive. Logically, lifting the front axle should prevent any form of damage to the components, particularly the powertrain. However, towing companies don't use all the same equipment and techniques, and that's exactly the point that needs clarification.

Example: take the Nissan LEAF. Of course, it goes without saying that you have to put the car in neutral. But unlike a conventionally-powered vehicle, the car must be switched on first. Consequently, the uneducated tow guy who decides to lift the rear axle could cause some serious damage.

Similar misfortunes could happen if the car's front end stuck in the air with the parking brake engaged. Therefore, Nissan recommends towing by a platform at all times. General Motors (Volt) and Mitsubishi (i-MiEV) also make the same suggestion.

By the way, Nissan offers LEAF buyers free towing service for three years... although said buyers must ask for it beforehand. That's good news, but it won't prevent improperly trained tow crews from potentially wrecking a perfectly-good electric car.

In conclusion, towing operators should always review safety precautions and/or contact the auto manufacturer to avoid adopting additional risk, expenses and most of all safety!

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TowTrax  
Dan Messina 769-774-0340

## Safety Alerts

HAAS Alert  
Noah Levens 833-433-4227

## Uniforms

Cintas  
Brad Beyer 763-391-5266

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MPTA Board Meeting

January 18, 2022

6:00 p.m, Dinner

6:30 p.m. Meeting

MPTA Office  
2886 Middle Street  
Little Canada, MN 55117

Check Facebook for zoom video  
conference information

## MPTA Office Holiday Hours

*December 24<sup>th</sup> – Closed*

*December 31<sup>st</sup> -Closed*



## 5 CHRISTMAS FUN FACTS

1. Holiday retailers use music to attract potential shoppers.
2. The busiest shopping day of the year is not Black Friday, but the Saturday before Christmas.
3. Researchers have proven that a “50% off” sign leads in increased sales, even if shoppers don’t know the original price.
4. All 364 items in the popular song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” would have cost \$101,119.84 in 2011.
5. Clark Griswold’s disappointing Jelly of the Month Club Christmas bonus is worth about \$177 in the 1989 comedy National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.

