

MINNESOTA

Professional Towing Association



Another September to Remember



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2886 Middle Street
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Message From MPTA President, Ron Gardas Jr.



Well, Just like every year the “training months” of the fall were a whirlwind. In mid-September the MPTA hosted a two-day advanced light duty training class. Pushing the limits in the two-day advanced training class is what the students received. Pushing the limits of what people thought they could do with a light duty wrecker and a flatbed. The students were taught about snatch blocks, rigging, incident management and more. As always, we talked about professionalism and what that means in our industry. We also hosted our “Introduction to Heavy Duty” training class at the tail end of September. Much like the name describes this is a basic class. In this training session, students learned how to tow a truck from point A to B understanding “T-bolts”, air systems, and hook ups.

Following the first day of the Advanced Light Duty class was our annual meeting and 2nd annual Hall of Fame Ceremony. The Hall of Fame Ceremony is very personal to me as this is my favorite event of the year, am most proud of and a huge success. The Annual MPTA Hall of Fame is an opportunity to remember and honor generations of towers and those in the industry paving the way for the present generation and generations to come. This year, the MPTA inducted three wonderful, deserving, quality individuals- Red Jensen, Ron Hendricks, and Frank Letourneau. MPTA is accepting applications for nominations for next year’s Hall of Fame enshrinement and hope to see you at next year’s Ceremony!

Ron Gardas Jr

President - Minnesota Professional Towing Association

Vice President - Heavy Operations

Twin Cities Transport & Recovery

MPTA Hosts Annual Meeting and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



On Tuesday September 13th, the MPTA hosted their Annual Meeting and annual Hall of Fame Inductee Ceremony at Trappers Bar & Grill recognizing three individuals with substantial contributions to the towing and recovery industry. As always, the Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for towing members to share thoughts about the upcoming year. Items discussed were legal and legislative issues, education and continuing how to help our towing industry be the best it can be.

This year was the seventh year MPTA members casted their votes by a mailing in their votes. There were four very respective towing members/ operators on the ballot. The unfortunate situation, we can only allow three to be voted in. The three board of Directors voted on the board of directors are Lance Burda-B&B Industries, Lonnie Krackow– Borkowski Towing & Salvage Inc., and Jenn Pearson-Twin Cities Wrecker Sales, Inc. I encourage every MPTA member in the future to attend our Annual Meeting, as this is your meeting.

MPTA realizing it is time to display the roots of our membership and profession, each year three nominees making a difference in our industry and the MPTA are enshrined into the MPTA Hall of Fame. Each August/September a new class will be inducted into the MPTA Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to the class of 2022! Frank Letourneau; Citywide Service Corp., Ronald Hendricks; Plymouth Automotive, and Elwood “Red” Jensen, Tow ‘N Travel

What a great evening topped by a great group of attendees making a very special occasion even better! Hope to see you at next year's Annual meeting/HOF Induction ceremony!





Elwood “Red” Jensen

Elwood Dean Jensen born May 18th, 1928, into a rural farming family in Albert Lea- a city where he would call home and spend all his life. Attending a small one room schoolhouse, never making it past the eighth grade eventually staying home helping his family on the farm and his uncle with the road construction business. Elwood’s young adulthood was during the prime of World War II serving his country in the United States Navy in 1944 at the age of only 16 years old.

Losing many things during the great war- his friends, childhood, and his first name. Well, kind of... No one knows who started the nick name, or when it exactly started but one thing was for sure, he would be forever known as RED.

Red married the love of his life, Mildred Moan in 1950 welcoming two children Gene and Marge. In the early sixty’s, the world’s first shopping mall (Southdale mall) opened just a few years earlier to a massive success. The booming California landscape needed these new shopping malls an opportunity hauling supplies to California.

Supporting his young family, Red drove tractor trailers for Streeter Industries back and forth to California for 6 or 7 years. Red was perfect for the job. He knew big trucks, he knew the drivers, he knew what it took to get the job done.

Red went from driving through the mountains and across country to driving the desk. Red’s son Gene employed by Vern Thron pumping gas at a filling station, Gene told Vern his dad was not very happy with what he was doing and looking for a change. Vern mentioned there is an opportunity to buy an aging towing company, but Vern did not know anything about big trucks or towing. Red did not know anything about towing either but how bad could it be? With that, a partnership was born. Red bought “Floyd and Jakes Towing. It came with eight aged wreckers. Red was given a walk-through of the equipment and in one afternoon knew how everything worked. Red knew the risks and knew he would have to work hard changing the name from Floyd and Jakes to “Tow and Travel” because his business partner also sold travel trailers out of the same building.

Tow and Travel was a cornerstone of the community- in perfect placement at the intersection of Interstate 35 and Interstate 90. Soon finding out, the Albert Lea towing market was feast or famine. Using his down time to repair and modify his trucks to better suit their needs, Red modernized the fleet attracting new customers stemming from his hard work and internal drive.

Through this fine art Red met some of his closest friends and members of the local police departments and state patrol- a mutual respect for one another.

In the early eighty’s Dick Pellow from St Paul visited with Red about joining their new Towing Association. To say the least, Red was all in. Knowing the importance of an association, Red knew they needed a voice. Red was one the very first board of directors as well as the third president the MPTA had. Because of his knowledge of everyone in Albert Lea he was tasked with working with the state representative of the area. Red was also active in the Towing and Recovery Association of America, representing Minnesota at conventions.

Red sold Tow and Travel to Allen’s Towing in 1996. Red loved to go golfing boasting a fully functional tow truck golf cart driving around the course. Most people look for stray golf balls- Red looked-for broken-down golf carts. Whether taking time meeting his police friends for morning coffee or a Minnesota Professional Towing Association event he was there. Always able to count on Red from start to finish helping with whatever was needed.



Frank Letourneau

Francis John Letourneau was born February 6th 1942 growing up in the south Minneapolis suburbs. Attending Minneapolis South High School, Frank did not know what he wanted to do in life.

Frank Began started pumping gas at the local Clark station in his High School years and after graduation, enlisted in the United States Army. Frank proudly serving his country from 1960 to 1963, Frank was relieved of duty on November 22nd, 1963 the same day President John F Kennedy was assassinated.

Back in the Twin Cities, Frank working several jobs in multiple industries. One day interested in an overnight dispatching job for AAA in 1967, the lady handing Frank an application turned out to be his soon beloved Harriet. Frank Letourneau married Harriet Michals in 1973. Their marriage blessed them with two children, Rich, and Brett.

Working at AAA, Frank elevated into management and assisting in setting up the first training school for the Minnesota Service Station Association with his friend Joe Sroga. The training was an obvious success, Frank leaving AAA doing anything he could to help the Service Station Association. With Frank's connections within the service station industry, striking up a long-lasting friendship with Len Anderson from the local Standard oil station at the corner of Franklin and Riverside in Minneapolis.

At the time franchises such as standard oil owned the property leasing to the station owner. If standard oil decided to sell a location for no reason-out from under the dealer, Frank lobbied and assisted in passing the PMPA act also known as "The Franchise law" giving the station owner protection. During the fuel crises in 1973-74, creating a resolution for fuel allocations within service stations. Stations were only allocated 8,000 gallons of fuel per month. Frank found a loophole, if a station had tow trucks and delivered gas, were able to get more fuel then stations that did not. Saving countless businesses and saving countless jobs and the families depending on those jobs.

October 1st, 1975, Frank, and Harriet started Citywide Service in south Minneapolis in a small alley garage working 24 hours a day. Looking to expand, Frank and Harriet moved the business to Ham Lake needing space, but short of a garage. Staying in Ham Lake, Frank and Harriet bought a house with a garage and lot storing impounds as Harriet orchestrated new a tax service from the kitchen in addition to Frank also running a successful dump truck business out of the home location- not mention Frank and Harriet also operated a bait shop out of the house!

It was this location Frank showed his boys how to work hard for their dreams. Frank's son Brett remembers working for him during a snowstorm. Both boys had been out for more hours than they could count. A call comes in and Brett says, "Dad I can't go anymore, I'm so tired" Frank said OK and started putting on the boots he just took off. Brett said, "dad what are you doing"? Frank said the job needs to get done, people are counting on us. Soon after, Frank persuaded by his friend Joe Sroga to join the MPTA.

Any other towing company ever think about having a bait shop in their towing company? "My way" is a slogan sticking with frank his whole life- immortalized on the front of a pickup truck his son Brett has built in his honor with a wrecker in the back end painted the same color brown Frank started with. Frank and Harriet sold City Wide Service to their son Brett in 2000. On paper now Brett is the boss telling Frank, the employee what to do and how to do it. But does the dynamic of a father and son ever switch?

Ronald Hendricks



Ronald Michael Hendricks was born Thursday August 13th 1936 raised on a family farm in Kimball Minnesota. The Hendricks family relocated to Plymouth where Ronald graduated from Wayzata high school in 1954. A short year later, in 1955 Ron enlisted in the United States Army to learn Crane and Shovel operation at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri due to his mechanical knowledge of heavy equipment.

Soon after enlisting, Ron transferred to the Nike guided missile battalion in Lombard, Illinois stationed in the missile tracking area and the motor pool repairing vehicles, driving bus, and operated a Mack Holmes W45 military wrecker. All this new excitement of seeing what else was in the world other than Plymouth Minnesota would fade fast. Ron couldn't even wait until his time in the military was over so he could marry the love of his life, Shirley Sweeney.

Ron and Shirley tied the knot in 1956 birthing four children, Charles "Chuck", Steven, Cheryl, and Rhonda. The oldest, "Chuck" followed in his father's footsteps working side by side with him for years. Knowing he had to work hard providing for his family, Ron was employed by Amus Dayon owner of Dayon Auto Salvage and a mechanic at the local Amoco service station. The opportunity at Dayon Auto Salvage is where Ron began shaping his career, his life and his family forever. Dayon Auto Salvage had a 1948 Ford two-ton home built wrecker, Ron talked Amus into selling him the wrecker.

Striking a deal with Amus, Ron did the towing for him working off the price of the '48 Ford. In 1958 Ron's Towing was established in the small town of Hammel, MN. Making a name for himself as one of the only towing services willing to do calls 24-hours a day.

In 1968 Ron worked for Plymouth Village Automotive as a mechanic and wrecker operator in conjunction running his own 24-hour towing business circling back to his roots in Plymouth. Purchasing Plymouth Village Automotive in 1969, Ron sadly sold his old faithful 20-year-old 1948 Ford. The consolation was, he got three newer wreckers. After 1969 Plymouth Village Auto would flourish due to hard work as in 1972 Ron expanded as a Vulcan wrecker dealership.

Chuck remembers building the famed "Cradle Snatcher." Not a big seller and selling about a half dozen or so, Ron ended the partnership with Vulcan. During the 70's Plymouth Village Auto expanded their heavy-duty operations buying a new Ford with a Holmes 750 and a Mack with a Holmes 750. During the 70's the city of Plymouth experienced large growth. Mega machinery brought in for new roads and dirt work for buildings. Ron received calls to start these massive machines when they would not start in the wintertime. The slogan on the side of a Plymouth Village Automotive truck was "Any Where - Any Time." They forgot the "Any Thing."

Ron invented a starting unit boasting anywhere from 24 to 36 volts for these massive graders. Such a success, Ron was on the cover of Motor North Magazine in December 1976. Sadly in 1979 Ron's kidney and heart disease was getting worse forcing him into retirement. Just because you retire doesn't mean you slow down. In 1980 Ron with the help of his son Chuck, bought three 1948 Fords using a little of this truck and a little of that truck to make one, some might call it a perfect 1948 Ford F-6. The same truck as his old faithful and the one that started it all. This truck is still around today owned by MPTA member Phil Collins displaying it proudly just as Ron had.

Ron also served on the Minnesota Professional Towing Association board. Ron's son; Chuck reflecting in the past, remembers his dad would go with Dick Pellow to spread the association's message to other towing owners. Eventually Ron transitioned from an active board member becoming Minnesota Professional Towing Association's first Executive Director. It was those contributions that lead him to be a "Charter Member" in 1981. When Ron wasn't wrenching on a car or truck or pulling something out of a ditch you could find him at the office in the back playing cribbage or Euchre with his friends. Sometimes they were friendly games and sometimes voices would get loud.

Lynn, Ron's granddaughter said she remembers being a little girl climbing on his lap and looking in his breast pocket for the hard candies he always had. The grip of Ron's kidney disease took a firm grasp on him losing his battle with kidney disease on July 29th 1985 at the age of 48. Ron's contributions to this industry and the Minnesota Professional Towing Association will never be forgotten.

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MPTA Hosts Two-Day Advanced Light Duty Training Class



On September 13th and 14th, the MPTA supported our towing operators with a 2-day advanced light duty training class. MPTA board directors Ron Gardas Jr. and Joe Lomsdal taught the early classroom portion of the school with new information and safety statistics and everyday basics of getting ready for each towing shift. With an ever-changing industry, always nice to open the classroom up for instruction and FAQ's. Students were taught everything from size of chains, straps, pressure points, Lever's, recovery, use of snatch blocks and even how to better prepare yourself mentally and professionally.



With nearly thirty students in attendance, MPTA board directors hosted several hands-on training sessions featuring difficult hook ups, recovery situations, roll-overs, working load limits and experiencing use of chains and straps getting a feel for what our industry has to offer. Although the school gives you a great "Hands on" experience, it can only prepare you for the "real thing!" Teaching student's the advanced lessons of recovering vehicles in a tough environment while learning the "Do's and Do not's" of our industry.



MPTA Board Directors sponsored the event providing many vehicles and the use of their own equipment. The students did not disappoint. They were promised to get hands on training while getting dirty- just like every MPTA training class. Every training class the MPTA conducts, all of us learn more from the instructors as well as from our students. Special thanks to Ron Gardas Jr. and Joe Lomsdal for teaching recovery fundamentals in the classroom as the well as Many MPTA Board of Directors assisting in the classroom and recovery sessions. Thank you to Twin Cities Transport & Recovery and MPTA board directors for many of the salvaged vehicles.



Shout out to the Gardas family for allowing us to use their rental property, Custom Cap and Tire and Western National Insurance for sponsoring our event! Together we support our industry, but more importantly our professionalism. I would say when one looks at the time, money, and personal commitment, at the end of the day, it's all well worth it!

Hope to see you or your employees at the next MPTA endorsed training class!



MPTA Hosts One- Day Heavy Duty Training Class



For those who missed the MPTA's Heavy Duty Training Class on September 27th, two words sum up the condensed one-day event, experience, and knowledge. In a full one-day class, students of the MPTA Heavy Duty tow school taught by some of the best local instructor's, Ron Gardas Jr, and Jay Thompson.



The MPTA Board Directors felt this year's Heavy- Duty Training Class should be an abbreviated one-day class as the MPTA is planning a two-day Heavy-Duty class for next summer. The morning session began with an extensive classroom presentation taught by Ron Gardas Jr. of Twin Cities Transport & Recovery and Jay Thompson of Lake City Towing. Students were also treated to a "Q&A" with a CVI from the State Patrol while learning importance of tire pressure and maintainability from Jake at Custom Cap & Tire. After lunch, a four hour "hands on" afternoon session covering Towability, basic hook-ups, Air Systems, and Drive shafts.



The class ended with a 30- minute question and answer “hands on” approach finding every student involved and eager to learn more.

Even though the day seemed short, all who participated in the Heavy-Duty Training Class will tell you, for time, money, knowledge, and the teaching of professionalism in our industry, was well worth the experience. The students were so involved, by end of day, they shared industry stories.



Thank you to the Gardas Family for the use of their rental property and Western National Insurance for their sponsorship of our training classes in 2022!



MPTA Members have a Blast at Elko Speedway

“Once again the MPTA’s Eve of Destruction didn’t disappoint”

This past September marked the eighth time the MPTA has hosted and sponsored its annual picnic at Elko Speedway. Nearly 200 MPTA towing members, friends and family attended this perfect evening of fun and excitement as the MPTA event was postponed from August. The early afternoon began with towing members displaying their trucks and equipment out on the plaza for the crowds of people to view.

Throughout the afternoon and evening, MPTA members and guests were treated to many food-basket options. A 50/50 raffle, raising \$775 for the International Towing Museum “Survivors Fund” and nearly \$500 contributed to MPTA Lobbying fund through the MPTA live Raffle. Congratulations to Jenn Pearson of Twin Cities wrecker Sales Inc. winning \$775 in cash! Jenn donated her winnings to the International Towing Museum “Survivors Fund” MPTA is sending a check in the amount of \$1,550 to the International Towing Hall of Fame on behalf of the Members of the MPTA as well as the Pellow family! Our towing members have the biggest hearts. For information about the “survivors fund. Please visit <https://internationaltowingmuseum.org/survivor-fund/> for more information.



All of the kiddos that evening awarded \$10 DQ gift cards satisfying their future ice cream cravings. This was just the beginning!

MPTA members led the “parade lap” out on the track with their wreckers dressed up in American flags, lights flashing as race fans cheered on our members. With many events including live racing and other activities as the “Eve of Destruction” was under way as Elko Speedway didn’t disappoint.



The highlight of the evening was the Twin Cities Wrecker Sales Inc, Western National, Corporate Four Insurance and Borkowski Towing & Salvage featured Spectator Drags. Sixteen MPTA towing members brought their own cars to track testing their driving skills. Congratulations to Mark Healtne of Twin Cities Transport & Recovery taking home first place and \$250 cash! Special thanks to those for taking the time bringing a car to the track and giving the crowd a heck of show!



From what I am hearing, MPTA members and guests had great time. If you missed the MPTA Annual Picnic at Elko Speedway this year, will have to attend next year to see how we can top this past year's event.

Thank you to all MPTA members, sponsoring partners and guests for making this year's Eve of Destruction a huge success!

See you Next Year!



THC law in Minnesota forces employers to revisit drug testing policies

Without clear guidance, many businesses are scrambling to adjust to the new law.

MINNEAPOLIS — Hemp-based THC products have been legal in Minnesota for a little more than three months now, but employers across the state are still struggling to adjust to the brand-new law.

Lauryn Schothorst, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce director of workforce management policy, said the lack of clear guidance has left many businesses scrambling to review their policies like drug testing.

"The first thing we heard from employers was, 'What just happened?'" Schothorst said. "Then it's, 'OK, how do we ensure that our workplace culture and our workplace safety needs or positional safety needs are maintained legally?' Changing statutes in Minnesota and around the country add confusion to the compliance question."

Schothorst said the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce held a webinar shortly after the law passed to answer questions from businesses about how to handle the new THC measure.

There are a number of ambiguities for employers to consider, namely the fact that an employee might test positive for THC after consuming a legal hemp-based product like a gummy or THC-infused seltzer.

"Broadly speaking, yes, that's the heart of the matter," Schothorst said. "What is intoxication? How do you discern intoxication? Where is the source of consumption? You can't really differentiate any of those things at this point in time."

Phyllis Karasov, a labor attorney and shareholder at Larkin Hoffman, said many businesses had already been re-considering drug testing policies for marijuana, even before the new THC law took effect in Minnesota. That's because more employees are using marijuana, and the workforce shortage has made it more difficult for employers to be picky about who they hire.

"THC has now accelerated that because employers are seeing an increase in positivity in their drug tests and are kind of deciding, 'you know what, it's okay,'" Karasov said. "I have been asked many times to revise drug and alcohol testing policies that actually list the type of drugs that are being tested for, and to either remove hemp-based THC or totally remove marijuana."

Adding to the uncertainty is the fact that Minnesota already has a "lawful consumable products" law on the books that prevent employers from firing employees who use legal substances outside of work hours. Since the Minnesota legislature did not write clear regulations around the legalization of hemp-derived THC, it's not yet clear if these legal products count as "lawful" during off-hours.

"It's very possible it does, but until either there's a court case that gives a definitive answer, or the legislature revisits the consumable products statute, we don't know," Karavov said.

Previously, the author of the THC bill has said more regulations will need to be considered at the next legislative session -- but that may hinge on the outcome of the November elections.



Danny Spewak- Kare11



Diesel Shortage Leaves US With Just 25-Day Supply as Demand Surges: Report



Photo |Getty Images.

Diesel stockpiles in the U.S. are reportedly at their lowest point since 2008, with only enough fuel for a 25-day supply, according to a recent report from Bloomberg . Demand is also said to be at its highest point since 2007, creating a dangerous supply/demand combination that’s causing spikes in pricing. The Biden administration called the nationwide diesel supply “unacceptably low” and is looking at all options to build up the national supply to help reduce prices.

According to U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the average price of diesel is at \$5.34 per gallon. That’s an increase of \$1.67 per gallon, compared to this time last year. The area getting hit the hardest is New England, where people burn diesel fuel for heat more than anywhere else in the country. There, stockpiles of diesel fuel are a third of what they normally are at this time of the year. However, the highest cost of diesel fuel is in California, where the average cost is almost \$6.50 per gallon, an increase of almost \$2.00 per gallon over this time last year.

It’s also a massive price increase over the average cost of gasoline in the U.S. According to the EIA, the average price of gasoline in the U.S. is \$3.87 per gallon, with the most expensive region also being California, at \$5.84 per gallon.

Part of the reason for the diesel supply shortage is maintenance season but the bigger issue is Russia’s war in Ukraine, which has hurt global fuel supplies. Thankfully, according to Bloomberg, there may be some good news on the horizon. One million barrels of diesel fuel is said to be headed to New York, after two shipping vessels were diverted from their original European destinations. At the same time, a Trainer, Pennsylvania-based diesel refinery is coming back online after its seasonal maintenance, which will help increase diesel production in the U.S. Hopefully those two things can help return the diesel stockpile to normal-ish levels, at least temporarily.

Source: Newsbreak



From: Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services

Subject: Same-day issue of standard class D driver's licenses and permits and standard identification cards.

Please share the following information with your colleagues and partners.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services division (DVS) will launch a new program that allows the Dakota County License Center in Lakeville and the Clay County Department of Motor Vehicles in Moorhead to issue standard class D driver's licenses and identification cards (IDs) over the counter starting **Oct. 3**. This is part of a pilot program authorized by the Minnesota Legislature in 2021 that runs through June 30, 2023. The same-day cards cannot be obtained at other driver's license offices or at driver's license exam stations. Not available for same-day issue are:

- REAL ID compliant driver's licenses, permits, or ID cards
- Enhanced driver's licenses, permits, or ID cards
- Commercial driver's licenses or permits

Same-day issued cards have a slightly different look and feel than traditionally issued cards due to the card stock and laminate used in the printing process at the offices. For more information about the differences between same-day issue cards and traditionally issued cards, check out the **Just the Facts-Same Day Issue document** found on the DVS website, drive.mn.gov. Select DVS Documents, Manuals and Forms from the DVS Information panel.

Please contact Driver Services Program Director Jody-Kay Peterson at Jody-kay.Peterson@state.mn.us or 651-201-7699 if you have any questions.

Key Stats for Roadway Fatalities and Injuries

In 2020, over 38,000 lives were lost on the road nationwide, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This number was the highest since 2007.

Crashes with other motor vehicles accounted for nearly half those deaths, at approximately 17,500. Crashes with fixed or other objects caused the second most deaths while just over 8,000 pedestrians were killed in road accidents.

In 45% of fatal crashes, the top causes included drivers of passenger vehicles who were speeding, impaired from alcohol, or not wearing a seat belt.

"The rising fatalities on our roadways are a national crisis; we cannot and must not accept these deaths as inevitable," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Roadside injuries too have been documented, and the number is staggering. Over 3.6 million injuries were caused by motor vehicles, five times more than any other accident. A crash into a fixed object or other object came in second place with just under 700,000 injuries. Older drivers, with 200,000 drivers aged 65 and above, received injuries. Motorcyclists follow closely behind with 180,000 injuries from road accidents.

The top 3 states in which motor vehicle accidents were the costliest included California, Texas and Florida.

All in all, more vigilance on the roadway is needed to prevent accidents leading to death and injury. Awareness, sobriety and following the laws of the road will go a long way in reducing these results.

What implications do these numbers have for you?

Source: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/2020-traffic-crash-data-fatalities>

TOW INDUSTRY WEEK

TRAA Reminder: National Crash Responder Safety Week November 14-18

The Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA) offers a reminder that Federal Highway Administration's annual National Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) is set to take place this year from November 14 – 18, 2022.

A TRAA release states:

“The CRSW is the traffic incident management community’s opportunity to make a difference by teaching each other and the motoring public about our common goal and shared responsibility for safe, quick clearance. Join us in making a difference this November.

“Key Goals:

Increase awareness of Move Over Laws among the motoring public.

Promote “Steer It, Clear It” with motorists.

Spread information on Traffic Incident Management (TIM) within the responder community.

Encourage responder participation in the National TIM Responder Training.



“How you can get involved:

Work with your state towing association to hold a statewide Move Over Law Awareness event (in-person or online).

Offer tours of your shop to raise awareness of what you do within the local community.

Share videos and messages promoting your state’s Move Over Law on your social media accounts. Note, TRAA will be posting daily during the CRSW so you can share our posts on your own company accounts if that’s easier for you.”

To learn more about TRAA and national Move Over law initiatives, visit traaonline.com.

Source: TRAA

Thank you to all our Sponsoring Partners for making this year’s
Eve of Destruction a huge success!



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White House to Boost Domestic EV Battery Production

Virtually all EV battery components are made abroad.



October 21, 2022

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—The Biden Administration will award \$2.8 billion in grants to 20 manufacturing and processing companies across 12 states for projects to expand the production of electric-vehicle batteries, reports CNBC.

The grants will support projects that extract and develop more battery-grade lithium, graphite and nickel, as well as other materials used for batteries. All projects will develop enough lithium to supply over two million electric vehicles annually and establish significant domestic production of graphite and nickel, according to the White House.

The grants will also support the installation of the first large-scale commercial lithium electrolyte salt production facility in the United States, as well as an electrode binder facility capable of supplying 45% of the anticipated domestic demand for binders for EV batteries in 2030.

“Producing advanced batteries and components here at home will accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels to meet the strong demand for electric vehicles, creating more good-paying jobs across the country,” Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said in a statement.

The White House said that virtually all lithium, graphite, battery-grade nickel, electrolyte salt, electrode binder and iron phosphate cathode material are produced abroad, and China controls the supply chains for many of these key inputs.

The Associated Press reports that during the event, Ryan Melsert, CEO of American Battery Technology Co. in Reno, Nevada, told Biden that U.S. intervention in the battery market was overdue.

“Unfortunately, the U.S. is almost a non-player in the lithium game,” Melsert said, noting that less than 1% of lithium products globally are made in the U.S.

Melsert said his company, which makes lithium hydroxide for battery cathodes, is changing that and so are the other grant recipients. “Vehicle manufacturers are really hungry to buy these materials from U.S.-based resources,” he told Biden.

The 12 states receiving grants are Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee and Washington state. The companies that receive the grants must match the money given by the government. President Biden set a goal for electric vehicles to make up half of all new vehicles sold in 2030 electric.

The Inflation Reduction Act offers qualified consumers a tax credit of up to \$7,500 on the purchase of an electric vehicle. However, to get the full amount, the EV must contain a battery made in North America, and 40% of the materials in the battery must also be from the continent. According to AP, the vast majority of EV purchases won’t qualify for the full \$7,500 tax credit.

Granholm said at the event the grant should address that issue and “supercharge the private sector to ensure our clean energy future is American-made.”

EV adoption rate by U.S. consumers is not as high as some predict. The Fuels Institute forecasts EV adoption nationally to reach almost 6% of vehicles in operation by 2030, and EV adoption rates will vary greatly by state, with 15 states hosting 76% of all EVs.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MPTA Board Meeting

November 15, 2022

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Meeting: 6:30 pm

MPTA Office
Little Canada, MN



DID YOU KNOW (NOVEMBER)?

WHAT MONTH?

9th

November was the ninth month of the ancient Roman calendar and has retained its name from the Latin novem, meaning "nine."



WHAT DATE?

11/18/63

Bell System in the United States officially introduced dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) technology under its registered trademark Touch-Tone.



WHAT YEAR?

1898

Cheerleading was started at the University of Minnesota with Johnny Campbell leading the crowd in cheering on the football team with "Rah, Rah, Rah! Ski-u-mah, Hoo-Rah! Hoo-Rah! Varsity! Varsity! Varsity, Minn-e-So-Tah!"



HOW MANY?

46M

An estimated 46 million turkeys will be cooked this holiday season.

