# THE GREEN LIGHT II

The official newsletter of Alliance Interstate Risk Service



# NEW BUILDING BLOCKS SEMINARS ANNOUNCED!

We are bringing our Building Blocks of a Safety Culture seminar to the great state of Alabama! Join our team for a regional event designed to equip trucking industry professionals with the essential tools and knowledge to foster a strong, sustainable safety culture within their organizations.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>** (Montgomery) Alabama Trucking Headquarters **July 16<sup>th</sup>** (Cullman) Sportsman Lake Park Activity Center **October 16<sup>th</sup>** (Mobile) TBA

These seminars offer a unique opportunity to connect with industry experts, network with peers, and leave with actionable strategies to enhance safety and claims management within your company.

# STRENGTHEN YOUR WORKERS' COMP PROGRAM

#### From Safety National's Carrier Chronicles September 2024

A robust workers' compensation program is vital for safeguarding your organization and supporting your workforce. However, its effectiveness hinges on more than just policies and procedures. According to Beverly Covey, Senior Risk Control Manager at Safety National, success requires comprehensive organizational commitment.

#### SECURE EXECUTIVE-LEVEL COMMITMENT

While support across all management levels is important, executive buy-in is critical. A comprehensive workers' compensation program can reduce costs and positively impact the bottom line. Presenting a well-structured plan that outlines roles, responsibilities, and measurable outcomes can build trust and encourage investment from top leadership.

#### **UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Many employers underestimate the true cost of workers' compensation claims. Collaborate with your insurance carrier to utilize tools like incident calculators, which can illustrate the revenue needed to cover claims. Additionally, highlighting the benefits of a solid return-to-work program can showcase potential savings and further justify the program's value.



#### LEVERAGE DATA EFFECTIVELY

Data plays a crucial role in developing and maintaining a successful workers' compensation program. It helps establish baselines, set goals, and monitor progress. Tailor data reporting to your audience: executives may focus on overarching trends and costs, while operational managers might need details such as injuries on specific days of the week, which routes and locations have the most injuries, and/or accident trends than can be corrected. Regular, detailed reporting can enhance transparency and drive continuous improvement.







# NEED SAFETY TRAINING IDEAS? WE'VE (STILL) GOT YOU.

#### Abby Greer May 5, 2025

Coming up with fresh, new content for monthly safety trainings can be tough. Our Risk Managers have been working hard to provide an easy tool that can assist in safety training for our members... and helps to alleviate some of the stress that comes with scheduling these very important meetings. The MONTHLY SAFETY TRAINING CALENDAR provides topics for each month and includes a one-page handout, relevant videos from our archives, and a quick game that can be incorporated for prizes!

#### MAY

A **Seatbelt** may seem like a simple piece of fabric, but it can (and will) save your life. Buckle up.



# JULY

Staying *Hydrated* isn't just drinking 8 cups a day or quenching your thirst. It benefits both the mental and physical well-being.



#### **JUNE**

**Stretching** has so many benefits, not only for your physical health, but it can also help reduce stress and calm the mind.



#### **AUGUST**

**Glad Hands** are a device used to connect airlines of the trailer to the tractor. Follow our tips to reduce the risk of injury.



This resource is available exclusively to members of the Alliance Interstate Risk program and is also available in our <u>Online Portal</u> under the Resources tab. Contact your Risk Manager today to learn more about how you can incorporate this useful tool in your safety trainings!



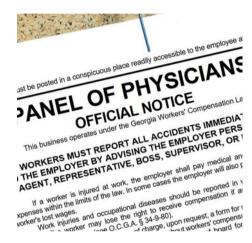
# **CLAIMS CORNER - ASK THE DIRECTOR**

#### Suzy Baker & David Balades May 12, 2025

In this feature, we will highlight some of our most Frequently Asked Questions regarding the claims process. These will be answered by none other than Alliance Interstate Risk Service Director of Claims, Suzy Baker (with some help from her Claims, Risk Management, and Underwriting friends)! If you have any questions, please submit them via email <u>HERE</u>.

# GEORGIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION RULE 201, PANEL OF PHYSICIANS: ARE YOU IN COMPLIANCE?

Employers in Georgia are required to maintain a Panel of Physicians (PoP) to direct medical care following a work-related injury. This requirement is governed by <u>Workers' Compensation Rule 201</u>, which, when properly followed, assists with controlling claim costs and ensures injured workers receive timely and appropriate treatment. Failure to comply with PoP requirements can result in the loss of medical control, which may lead to higher claim costs, delayed return-to-work timelines, and claim resolution.



#### Georgia - Rule 201 Summary

A traditional posted PoP shall consist of at least six physicians who are reasonably accessible to employees but is not limited to six. The minimum PoP shall include at least one orthopedic physician and no more than two physicians from industrial (occupational) clinics. The PoP must include one minority physician and must be posted in a prominent location on the business premises. Providers on a PoP must be located within a 50-mile radius of the employer's location.

Best practices suggest reviewing PoP regularly (quarterly) to confirm ongoing compliance with Rule 201. If a panel does not exist or does not comply with the requirements of Rule 201 at the time the employer is notified of a work-related injury, the injured worker can choose their own physician.

#### Best Practices for Panel of Physicians

- Prepare a PoP that includes more than the minimum of six providers to avoid panel non-compliance in case of retirement or facility closure.
- Post an English and Spanish version of the PoP in an open, visible, and accessible location at each GA business location.
- Have each employee sign a copy of the PoP at the time of hire.
- Have the injured worker sign a copy of the PoP reflecting their initial choice of physician, AND in the case of a one-time change.
- Have an employee document that the PoP was presented following notice of a work-related injury, but they are declining treatment at that time.



If you have questions about your existing Panel of Physicans, or need help creating one for your Georgia location, please contact our Claims Team.



# **SAFETY SPOTLIGHT**

Abby Greer May 12, 2025

The "Safety Spotlight" feature of The Green Light II shines the spotlight on safety professionals to gain insight into their background, and their thoughts and ideas on safety in our industry.

Meet Dustin Routzong, Director of Safety & Recruiting for Suit, LLC in Attalla, Alabama. Dustin got his start as a driver-trainer over 15 years ago, and his passion for safety and the industry has carried him to where he is today.

#### How did you get started in Safety?

I got my start in Safety in January of 2020. I was working as a Driver-Trainer for Kenan Advantage Group, Food Products Division. I was the driver that was present, involved, and always willing to help, and eventually, someone noticed! I went from driver to Regional Safety & Security Manager and never looked back.



#### What do you view as the main duties of a Safety Director?

To create an environment of trust and accountability, and to foster growth and learning. I never want to "circle the wagons" in regards to sharing information. I believe that transparency is the only environment in which Safety can truly flourish.

#### Why is safety important to you?

It's so very important! I truly care for our drivers at Suit. I always try my best to convey that I do care. They might not like what I have to say, but I always say it from a place of concern for them, their health, and their family. I want everyone to go home in the same condition they reported to work.



# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT continued

#### What has been the most challenging task in your role/career as a Safety Director?

Leveraging technology in an aging driver pool. Changing behavior is a difficult task, but not an impossible one.

# How do you promote your company's safety culture? How do you get employees to "buy in" or get involved?

Being present, aware, and transparent. I try to be proactive more than reactive. I want people to trust me, and that requires me to listen, think, and keep my emotions in check. I never want the fear of my reaction to prevent someone from sharing pertinent information. Our internal safety bonus structure truly rewards drivers who strive to be safe and compliant.

# What advice do you wish you had received early in your Safety career? What advice would you give someone who is starting out in their Safety role?

To realize that humans are prone to err. No matter how hard you try, nothing is ever going to be perfect. If the world was perfect, I would be out of a job! Just do the best you can, and the results will follow.

Care. Be willing to get your hands dirty. Ask questions and lean on senior drivers. Listen more than you speak. Never think your title makes you better than anyone else.

#### What would be your "safety quote" or "safety message" that you want to share?

"Safety has to be everyone's responsibility... Everyone needs to know that they are empowered to speak up if there's an issue."

- Captain Scott Kelly



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

### TIS THE TDC SEASON!

Our Association partners have been hard at work, gearing up for their state Truck Driving Championships! While GMTA, SCTA, TTA, and VTA have already crowned their winners (who will be moving on to the American TDC), our other state partners are preparing for action of their own! Check out the <u>EVENTS</u> section on our website for lists of each association's upcoming events... including the TDCs!





## **JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH**

Each year, the <u>National Safety Council</u> dedicates the month of June as <u>National Safety Month</u>. Join the NSC as they highlight the leading causes of preventable injury and death. Members of the Alliance Interstate Risk program are provided membership in the NSC at no additional cost. Take advantage of your membership - contact your Risk Manager today!

## **SCTA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Join us June 12th – June 15th at the Wild Dunes Resort in Isle of Palms, South Carolina, during the SCTA 2025 Annual Conference! Click <u>HERE</u> for more details.





## **GMTA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Join us June 23rd – June 25th at the Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island during the GMTA 2025 Annual Convention! Click <u>HERE</u> for more details.

## **IMTA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Join us June 25th - June 26th at the IMTA Headquarters for the IMTA 2025 Leadership Conference! Click <u>HERE</u> for more details.





## **NCTA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Join us July 20th - July 22nd at the Omni Amelia Island, during the NCTA 2025 Annual Management Conference! Click <u>HERE</u> for more details.

# **PROGRAM NEWS**

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

The Alliance Interstate Risk program is proud to welcome the following new members:

- A & A Express LLC Pinson, Tennessee
- Aaron's Towing LLC Warrenton, Virginia
- Baypark Trucking Inc Bishopville, South Carolina
- Bishop Damian Corp Prosperity, South Carolina
- Black River Logistics Inc Valdosta, Georgia
- Blacks Hauling LLC Baldwyn, Mississippi
- Carolina Services of Fayettville Fayetteville, NC
- D.A.L. Express LLC Spartanburg, South Carolina
- H & M Trucking Co Clinton, Illinois
- Heritage Hauling Inc Conway, South Carolina

- Hita Trucking LLC Ottumwa, Iowa
- Little River Transportation Trenton, Georgia
- Oberbroeckling Enterprises Inc Garnavillo, Iowa
- Prima Express Inc Tupelo, Mississippi
- Reliable Services Group Inc Conway, South Carolina
- Safeway Moving System Inc Jefferson City, Missouri
- Sweetie Boy Fab Workz Inc Ashland, Virginia
- Triple D Express Inc Saint Pauls, North Carolina
- Veeno Logistics LLC Monroe, North Carolina

## **AIR PARTNERS WITH MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION!**

Alliance Interstate Risk Service is pleased to announce its latest state trucking association partnership with the <u>Missouri Trucking</u>



<u>Association</u> (MOTA)! Missouri joins the <u>Georgia</u>, <u>Iowa</u>, <u>North Carolina</u>, <u>South Carolina</u>, <u>Tennessee</u>, <u>Virginia</u>, and <u>Alabama</u> state associations in partnering with Alliance Interstate Risk Service to provide their members with an affordable, comprehensive workers' compensation program.



## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING?

Has your accounting department taken advantage of our <u>online payment</u> <u>capabilities</u> yet? Our <u>Online Portal</u> is a one-stop resource for members to view and pay their bills, sign up for paperless billing, and even manage automatic payments.

If you have not received login information, or need assistance accessing your account, please contact our office at (334) 834–7911 or via email at <a href="Marketing@AllianceInterstateRisk.org">Marketing@AllianceInterstateRisk.org</a>.



