

# THE GREEN LIGHT II

The official newsletter of Alliance Interstate Risk Service

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Alliance Interstate Risk, along with the ATA Comp Fund, has returned an average annual historical dividend of **26%** to participating companies, with over **\$239 million** distributed since 1993.

We look forward to continuing our current partnerships in 2023, as well as making new ones. Join us and we will work together to make your company one of the safest and most successful in the industry. ***The road to a better workers' compensation program begins now.***



Alliance Interstate Risk Service, along with  
ATA Comp Fund, is pleased to announce:

# \$22,540,996

will be distributed with 2023 renewals.

# SAFETY BLITZ 2022 RECAP: MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

**ABBY GREER** November 10, 2022

*Last year, we introduced the Safety Blitz as a week-long campaign to emphasize situational awareness for SLIPS, TRIPS and FALLS, a major cause of workplace injuries. This year, we followed up last year's success with MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS.*

## **THANK YOU for making this year a success!**

After last year's success, in just a week's time, we made the decision to extend the Blitz to cover the month of October. This extra time allowed our member companies to use each week's topic as material for safety trainings. Safety Departments now had more time for planning to ensure every topic was covered thoroughly.

The 2022 Safety Blitz online participation numbers more than doubled from last year. With your help, we were able to reach thousands of executive, safety, and driver personnel through social media shares and email forwarding. Thank you to everyone who shared, commented, and liked our content!

During last year's Blitz, our Risk Managers were onsite at member company locations, catching employees and drivers "doing it right" when it came to preventing slips, trips, and falls. Since our team couldn't follow every driver around during the month of October, we came up with weekly quizzes based on our informational handouts provided at the beginning of each week. All company personnel were able to take the quiz and, if they aced it, were entered into prize drawings. We awarded \$2,500 in gift cards during this year's Blitz! Stay tuned, because we're not done awarding prizes just yet.

## **MEET CHAOS**

Mike Romano has partnered with Alliance Interstate Risk Service and the ATA Comp Fund as the voice of our Safety Blitz the past two years. His hilarious impersonation of Alabama football coach, Nick Saban, drove last year's Blitz "press conferences", and this year's Chaos was the star of the show. We would like to give Mike a huge THANK YOU and a big round of applause. Our Safety Blitz videos would have been just boring material if Mike hadn't brought his humor and fun to them.

Mike is a voice actor and producer for Mobile, Alabama-based Archangel Radio. You can learn more about Mike by visiting his [website](#).

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Visit the [Safety Blitz 2022](#) page on our [website](#) for all the information from this year's Blitz, including videos for each week and the winners from our weekly prize drawings!



# SAFETY BLITZ 2022 RECAP: MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

CONTINUED

## Top Five Spotlight

The top five reasons for MVAs are Distracted Driving, Speeding, Fatigue, Tailgating, and Weather. Each week during the month of October was dedicated to one of these issues. Please keep reading for a brief weekly recap. You can also visit our [website](#) for more information, including weekly handouts and our weekly gift card winners.



Distracted driving is the fastest-growing safety issue on the roads today and isn't limited to just cell phone usage. Messy cabs, passengers (both human and the furry kind), loud music, and even wandering minds are all types of distractions while driving. Nearly 80% of all crashes are caused by driver inattention or distraction 3 seconds prior to the crash. Don't be a statistic. Keep your eyes (and mind) on the road.



Speeding is a dangerous - and, let's be honest, completely avoidable - driver behavior. Speeding can reduce a driver's ability to maneuver the roadways and inhibits reaction times to unexpected hazards. Road conditions, weather, traffic volume, and even local roadways can all produce unforeseen dangers... dangers that are elevated when excessive speed is involved.



Fatigue isn't only caused by a lack of adequate sleep (although that's a major factor). Driver fatigue is also attributed to extended work hours, mental exhaustion, medication, and even an unhealthy diet. Sleep deprivation is as dangerous as alcohol impairment: 24 hours' lack of sleep can be equivalent to a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10, an amount above the "legal limit" for driving under the influence. Most fatigue-related incidents happen during the first hour of driving.



Who doesn't love tailgating in the fall? Cool weather, friends and family, grills and smokers filling the air with delicious scents... but we're not talking about THAT tailgating, are we? No, we are not. Tailgating while driving is when a driver follows another vehicle too closely, often at a distance that would not allow proper reaction time to avoid a collision should the front driver have to brake suddenly.



Weather can be spooky enough without adding in the dangers of deteriorating road conditions and a 40-ton CMV. All forms of weather can impact driving and cause inconvenience (which can lead to aggressive driving, hello again week 5 topic: Tailgating), delays, major accidents, and road closures.

“ Visit the [Safety Blitz 2022 Playlist](#) on our YouTube page for all of this year's custom videos! Scan the QR here.



# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

**ABBY GREER** November 10, 2022

*Our newest feature to The Green Light II will shine the spotlight on Safety Directors throughout our programs to gain insight into not only their background, but also their thoughts and ideas on safety in our industry.*

Please meet Heather Darnell, Safety Director for Watkins Trucking, a Birmingham, Alabama-based flatbed company. Heather joined Watkins in March 2008 and has been putting her passion for safety in our industry to work. In 2015, Heather was named Safety Professional of the Year by the Alabama Trucking Association. She is also the co-chair for the ATA Comp Fund Risk Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), a panel of representatives from all over the industry that meet to discuss trends and changes in safety.



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

I started out 15 years ago as a logbook clerk and safety assistant. CSA 2010 was in discussion. It was a great time to be learning as the industry was just beginning the discussions on CSA 2010 and how it was changing the focus of how drivers and companies were being evaluated.

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

Making sure to communicate with ALL departments and that everyone adapts and understands their roles and responsibilities when it comes to safety. Communication with drivers along with operations and shop employees is also very important. Accountability is key in safety and the Safety Director should be sure to hold the entire team accountable.

## **Why is safety important to you?**

My main goal each day is to see our drivers deliver their loads without accidents or injuries and that they return to their families at the end of the day safely.

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

Hands down, the implementation of electronic logs (e-logs). Training the older drivers new procedures that involve ever-changing technology is a constant challenge.

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# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Continued

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

In order to promote safety culture company-wide, each department should be included in the safety management cycle. We view "Safety" as a responsibility to "teach old dogs some new tricks." I make sure we communicate to everyone the changes that are occurring in the industry. We have also established multiple internal safety awards and safety bonuses, including gamifying the top spot for "Safest Driver".

## **What advice do you wish you had received early in your Safety career?**

Always be mentally prepared to have the worst day of your life. If you're prepared, it won't hit you as hard.

## **What advice would you give someone who is starting out in their Safety role?**

I would tell a newbie to find mentors and utilize them. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Even the questions that you may think are embarrassing or sound dumb (there's no such thing). Someone in the room probably has the same questions and is scared to ask. This can lead to some great group discussions.

Listen to your drivers and other departments for feedback. Always keep your door open and have a listening ear. Complete every training/webinar that is available. Actively participate in your state trucking association. There is a wealth of industry knowledge in every room where they gather.

## **What is one piece of advice you would give to a truck driver?**

Be willing to listen, adapt to the constantly-changing environment around you. Strive to have that reputation as the "Safest Driver" and be willing to lend a helping hand to others. Never become too comfortable in the job that you are performing.

## **What would be your safety quote or message?**

When I first started in trucking, a driver brought me this quote that I love. "Asking me to overlook a simple safety violation is like asking me to overlook your value in life." It is such a simple and accurate statement that has stuck with me over the years.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## CHANGES TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG & ALCOHOL INVESTIGATIONS

Beginning January 6, 2023, three years after the Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse went live, pre-employment Clearinghouse queries will satisfy the hiring requirement that mandates employers of CDL drivers. This requires employers to conduct investigations of prior drug and alcohol program violations for potential driver candidates. Now that the Clearinghouse has housed violation data for three years, manual inquiries are no longer valid. Queries from the Clearinghouse must be conducted to comply with this specific requirement. Prior employment and driving history investigations are still required and the 12-month Clearinghouse query requirement per driver is also the same. If you have questions, contact Candy Woodruff at [CWoodruff@AllianceInterstateRisk.org](mailto:CWoodruff@AllianceInterstateRisk.org).

## 2022 ATRI TOP INDUSTRY ISSUES REPORT

The American Transportation Research Institute released its annual report in October, identifying the top concerns facing the trucking industry. Not surprisingly, "Fuel Costs" topped this year's list. This year has seen record-high fuel costs, understandably replacing Driver Shortages, which had a five-year run at the top previously. Rounding out the top five were Truck Parking, Driver Compensation, and the Economy. Over 4,200 trucking industry stakeholders participated in this year's survey, and included motor carriers, truck drivers, industry suppliers, driver trainers, and law enforcement. You can sign up to receive the full report [HERE](#).



## BETTER TOGETHER

As we wrap up the first full year of the Alliance Interstate Risk program, we would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our trucking association partners. With the help of Georgia Motor Trucking Association, South Carolina Trucking Association, Virginia Trucking Association, and Alabama Trucking Association, our program continues to expand its reach. Without these associations, our industry's voice would not be heard. Please take a moment to thank the hard-working teams who work day-in and day-out to advocate for our industry politically and publicly. We appreciate everything they do!

# PROGRAM NEWS

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

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

- **Beck Trucking LLC** *Dobson, North Carolina*
- **Gulf Coast Containers LLC** *Mobile, Alabama*
- **Harris Freight Services LLC** *Piperton, Tennessee*
- **Home Time Delivery, Inc.** *Buckeye, Arizona*
- **Lead Dog Ventures LLC** *Durham, North Carolina*
- **MSDI of Florida, Inc.** *Mobile, Alabama*
- **Roeder & Moore LLC** *Charlotte, North Carolina*
- **Tread Transportation Services** *Cypress, Texas*

**we're  
growing!**

## THE AIR TEAM CONTINUES TO GROW!

The Alliance Interstate Risk Service is pleased to announce the hiring of Lauren Morgan as Information Technology Analyst effective August 15, 2022. Lauren will be responsible for supporting various areas of operations and processes through information technology.

Prior to joining our team, Lauren worked in Marketing and Information Technology for a workers' compensation TPA in Birmingham, Alabama. She graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems. She is currently pursuing her master's degree from Auburn University Montgomery.

## RENEWALS ARE BEING PROCESSED... WHAT'S NEXT?

Renewal pricing has been sent to Agents and member companies over the last week. We are currently waiting on final NCCI Mods and/or state rates to be finalized for Safety National to produce rating pages and will forward those as they are generated. Once received, please take a moment to review your 2023 information and, if there are any questions or updates, notify a member of Underwriting. As previously communicated, all changes to payrolls will be processed after January 1st.

Year-end audit information will be included in renewal folders. Be on the lookout in the coming weeks for email communications regarding scheduling your 2022 payroll audits. It is very important that these are scheduled early and completed as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact Rita Golson at (334) 834-7911 or [RGolson@ATACompFund.org](mailto:RGolson@ATACompFund.org).

**REMINDER**

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**A copy of our most recent Financials can be found on our website.**

*thank you!*

On behalf of the Alliance Interstate Risk Board of Trustees and the entire team, we want to express our gratitude for each and every partnership we have. From our agency and broker partners to each of our member companies, we are thankful for the trust placed in our program. Next year, we will join the ATA Comp Fund as it celebrates 30 years as one of the leading workers' compensation programs in the nation. This would not have been possible without your participation. We are very excited to see our program continue to grow and know that our mutual success comes from working together toward our common goal: making sure each driver and employee arrives home safe.



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