



The Caltrux 5th Wheel

WEEKLY NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION



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Today & Tomorrow: CTA's Virtual Policy Committee Meetings

CTA welcomes you to participate in our **Winter Executive and Policy Committee Meetings** held virtually **via Zoom on January 14 and 15**. Join us for impactful discussions about our Association and hear updates on this year's legislative session and top industry issues.

Below is a breakdown of what you can expect from each meeting:

- The **Kingpin Committee** will discuss the upcoming 2026 election, CTA's Call on Washington and a preview of CTA's grassroots advocacy efforts in 2026.
- The **Highway Policy Committee** will discuss pertinent issues related to truck route mapping by local jurisdictions, Surface Transportation Reauthorization, and the potential removal of the I - 580 truck route ban. We'll also preview the LA 2028 Olympic freight planning process and the 2026 legislative session.
- The **Safety, Security, & HR Policy Committee** will discuss FMCSA's Interim Final Rule on Non-domiciled CDLs and the English Language Proficiency requirements. The committee will also discuss marijuana reclassification, AB 5, and a preview of the 2026 legislative session.
- The **Environmental Policy Committee** will discuss future CARB rulemaking concepts, TRU and CTC developments, and close with a 2026 legislative preview.

Participants can view the schedule for the upcoming meetings on [CTA's website](#), and are welcome to register for one, some of, or all of the committee meetings.

Click the [link here](#) to register. We hope to see you all there!

AMC26 is Next Week: Are You Ready?

CTA's **72nd Annual Membership Conference (AMC26)** launches a week from today and while online registration is now closed, you can still register on-site.

AMC26's three content-packed days - **January 21 to 23** - will feature informative sessions by day... like **expert-led sessions on insurance, funding, tech, workforce and more...** and relaxing leisure by night.

It all happens in and around the **Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa**, which sits between the historic [Fisherman's Wharf](#) and the storied [Cannery Row](#), with near endless amenities, dining, and downtime options.



[Visit Monterey Plaza Rooms](#) to reserve lodging online at our host hotel and [click here](#) for the conference schedule..



TDC26 Registration is Now Open

No sooner does AMC end that we begin the call for CTA's annual **Truck Driving Championships (TDC)** in April. We've already opened our [TDC26 online registrations](#) at Caltrux.com.

As in the past we'll split the state in two, with a pair of events: the first, for northern California, is held at **FedEx Freight's yard in West Sacramento on April 11**. The second, for southern California, will be two weeks later on **April 25 in Arcadia at Santa Anita Park**.

This year's **state finals follow the SoCal regionals at Santa Anita on April 26**. First place state finals winners will then go on to compete against their counterparts in other states at the [National Truck Driving Championships](#) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from August 11 thru 14.

Are you up to the task of taking on our state's finest? Sign up today and begin your journey!

Inside the Cab Relaunches With New Plans, New Sound for 2026

We hope you're not reading **Caltrux 5th Wheel** when you're *behind the wheel* but podcasts are perfect when you're on the road. That's why we're putting new energy behind **Inside the Cab**, our official podcast hosted by **CTA CEO Eric Sauer**.



CTA has partnered with trucking podcast powerhouse [PodWheels](#) to help produce and distribute our programs, which means we'll be easier to find on the major podcast platforms and will probably simply sound better. We're looking to have something new to listen to every few weeks, with guests not only from trucking, but from sports, entertainment and the business world.

Our new sound debut is available now with [a look at 2025 in review](#). Check it out now!

ATA Cites Two Weeks of Washington Wins

Just two weeks into the new session of Congress, ATA is touting legislative wins for members.

Following sustained advocacy, bills addressing two top-tier strategic priorities, cargo theft and tort reform, are scheduled to advance out of committee. Later this week, the Senate will also



process an appropriations bill with an ATA-championed provision, while the House is expected to pass legislation that would clarify the joint-employer standard.

- **Cargo Theft.** On Tuesday, the **House Judiciary Committee** voted to pass the **Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (CORCA)**. This legislation establishes a unified, federal response to the proliferation of cargo theft that is **costs the trucking industry millions of dollars per day**. Separately, Congress is on the cusp of enacting an appropriations package with report language endorsed by ATA that would direct the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute cargo theft cases more actively.

- **Tort Reform.** The House Judiciary Committee is also poised to pass the **Protecting Third Party Litigation Funding from Abuse Act** that would bring transparency to the shady practice of third-party litigation financing. If approved, it would build on legislation the committee advanced late last year—the Protecting Our Courts from Foreign Manipulation Act—that would prohibit foreign governments and sovereign wealth funds from investing in U.S. lawsuits.
- **Joint Employer.** On deck later this week is the **Save Local Business Act**, a bill the House will vote on to clarify that an entity is only a joint employer if it directly and immediately exercises meaningful control over workers' essential terms and conditions of employment. Some labor union bosses and trial attorneys have exploited the ambiguity in current law to harass businesses, including some trucking companies.

Altogether, ATA says it is shaping up to be a productive start to the year as our national body takes full advantage of the few months of legislating remaining before Congress turns its attention to election-year politicking.

CVSA Human Trafficking Awareness Week is Underway

Monday marked the first day of the [Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's \(CVSA\)](#) five-day annual awareness and outreach effort in the U.S. to educate about the crime of human trafficking.



This effort coincides with the broader **Human Trafficking Awareness Month** recognized worldwide.

This week, law enforcement, motor carriers, and transportation safety organizations in the U.S. are conducting human trafficking awareness and outreach activities and submit data about those activities to the Alliance. CVSA will gather and analyze the data and report the results this summer.

The Alliance and **TAT (formerly Truckers Against Trafficking)** have been boosting awareness of human trafficking through webinars, social media, printed materials, training sessions, radio appearances and [online resources](#).

According to the U.S. Department of State's **2025 Trafficking in Persons Report**, has been **reported** to authorities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, on tribal land and within U.S. territories. In **2022**, 1,656 individuals were prosecuted for human trafficking, and 1,118 individuals were convicted of a human trafficking offense.

The annual Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative is part of CVSA's **Human Trafficking Prevention Program**. The program seeks to reduce human trafficking throughout North America through coordinated enforcement and investigative and educational awareness measures within the commercial motor vehicle industry.



ATRI Insurance Cost Survey Closes Next Week

The **American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI)** is calling upon motor carriers to participate in benchmarking research on rising cost of insurance and risk management. Carriers have until next Friday, Jan. 23 to submit data.

Researchers are expanding on prior study to better understand and assess industry-wide trends in the ongoing adoption and effectiveness of risk-reducing strategies. All participating carriers will receive a customized report that compares their fleet's cost of risk to an anonymized peer group.

Carriers can complete the survey two ways:

[Click here for PDF form](#) [Click here for online form](#)

All data is kept completely confidential for analysis in aggregate form only, and ATRI will sign non-disclosure agreements as desired.



AWARD/SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS



TUF SOB: Calling All Scholars

The **TUF SOB (Truckers United Fraternity Super Offspring of the Boss)** scholarship program provides financial support towards furthering the educational goals of trucking's next generation and the industry's future leaders.

Created by CTA members, TUF SOB was created to raise funds and award grants to trucking's next generation.

More than three decades later, the program has provided in excess of \$400,000 in scholarships to over 500 deserving individuals.

TUF SOB scholarship awards go to high school graduates entering college, as well as those continuing their college education. The TUF SOB program also supports those that wish to go to

trade schools, as well as adults wishing to attend college. Anyone who supports the trucking industry is considered, as long as they are sponsored by a CTA-member company.

Click below for the nomination form.

2026 TUF SOB Application

EVENTS

CALIFORNIA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION'S 72ND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

JAN 21-23
2026



NES

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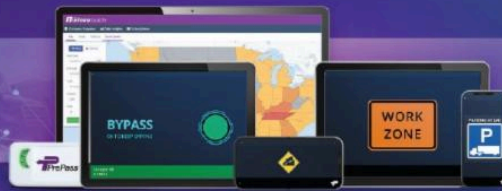


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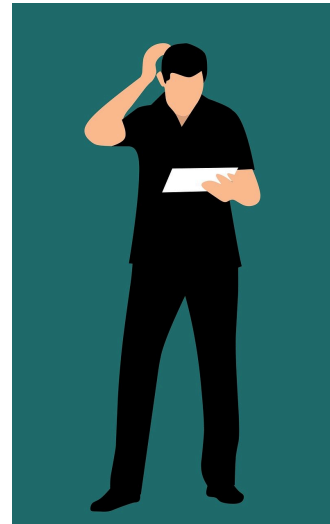
Remember to use the "Help Desk Online Contact Form" when you have a compliance or regulatory question on an issue.

The CTA Help Desk Online Contact Form is an exclusive member benefit designed to help with assisting various questions including:

- Driver qualification rules
- Drug testing questions
- Federal and California motor carrier safety regulations
- Log book/Hours-of-service regulations
- Vehicle load & securement rules
- Environmental regulations
- Hazardous materials regulations

Visit www.caltrux.org/compliance-help-desk/, or email helpdesk@caltrux.org.

Please be sure to include as much detail and information as possible. CTA's Government Affairs team will do their best to get back to you in timely manner.



Contact the Help Desk

DRIVER SAFETY EDUCATION

Brush Up on Safety Issues With TREDS

CTA is partnered with UC San Diego's [Transportation Research and Education for Driving Safety Center \(TREDS\)](#) to prevent crash-related morbidity and mortality by improving safe driving behaviors.

TREDS offers two courses aimed at preventing commercial motor vehicle-involved crashes from distracted and substance-impaired driving. They partner with the CTA to make courses available to the commercial motor vehicle industry.

Courses are approximately 60-minutes in length and available in both English and Spanish.



Just Drive
DELIVER DISTRACTION-FREE



Just Drive
DELIVER DRUG-FREE

Courses focus on distraction related to the use of cell phones and electronic devices and...

Courses focus on substances most commonly reported to the FMCSA Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse and...

Scope of the problem
Risk & consequences
Rules & regulations
Distracted, fatigued & drowsy driving
Work zone safety

Scope of the problem
Contributing factors
Risks & consequences
Laws & testing procedures
Strategies to drive-drug free

[Learn More](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Upcoming events can be accessed via CTA's Events Calendar](#)

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Circle Club Sponsor companies have shown a special commitment to CTA members and the trucking industry.

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[Contact Levi Ochotorena for more information and a CTA Member-exclusive price quote.](#)

Digital Back Issues: The Caltrux Bookshelf

For decades **Caltrux Magazine** has informed and entertained our members with news and features regarding the transport business, our legislative challenges and wins, and in-depth focus on the movers and shakers of California trucking.

The [Caltrux Bookshelf](#) uses a digital flipbook format to display these magazine issues in high quality, complete with articles and advertisements - identical to what you already receive in the mail.



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