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WEEKLY NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION



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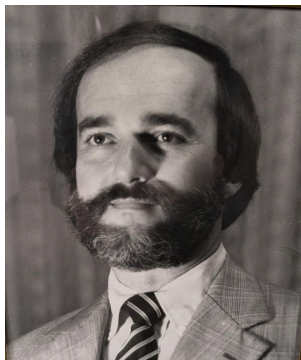
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CTA Mourns the Loss of Former President George Smith III, Safety Guru Jay Johnson

We're sad to report the passing of two dedicated California trucking industry leaders who provided decades of service to CTA.



Late last month, **former CTA President (1984), George Smith III**, passed away at his home in Arroyo Grande. He was 83.

Mr. Smith, who served as President and CEO of **Smith Transportation** before his retirement, was a five-decade veteran and advocate of the California trucking industry, and spent most of his life on the central coast.

He is survived by his sister Sherry Laurence, his two children, Erika Cianciulli and Antonio/Tony Smith, and his dear companion cat, Kitty Cat. Memorial services are yet to be announced.

We have since also learned of the Friday passing of **Jay Johnson**, CTA's **Central Coast Unit Chair** and owner of Gilroy-based **Jay Johnson & Associates**.

For more than four decades, Mr. Johnson was a committed advocate for public safety and regulatory compliance. His commercial vehicle enforcement expertise was the center of countless safety training programs offered statewide in partnership with CTA.

Mr. Johnson's law enforcement career included service with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Milpitas Police Department. Memorial services are yet to be announced.



Congress Passes \$200M Funding for Truck Parking

On Tuesday, the **American Trucking Associations (ATA)** heralded a historic first, as Congress took the unprecedented step of approving dedicated funding for truck parking projects.



The groundbreaking action will provide \$200 million that must be used solely to expand the availability of truck parking. This provision, along with numerous other measures designed to support truckers and strengthen the supply chain, was included in the final fiscal year 2026 appropriations package.

Addressing the **severe, ongoing shortage of truck parking** has been a centerpiece of ATA's advocacy. Last year, top ATA leaders testified multiple times about this issue on Capitol Hill, and ATA members raised this topic directly with their Members of Congress during a record-setting Call On Washington season.

According to a U.S. Department of Transportation study, 98% of truck drivers regularly experience problems locating safe parking. An analysis by the American Transportation Research Institute found that the average driver sacrifices 56 minutes of drive time per day. This results in \$6,813 in lost wages for truck drivers each year.

In addition to the significant victory on truck parking, ATA secured multiple other priorities in the FY26 funding package, such as:

- **Directing USDOT to provide a report and develop a cargo theft strategy**
- **Addressing distracted and impaired driving**
- **Studying the issue of predatory towing**
- **Reporting on the technological options for measuring intoxication, including marijuana impairment**
- **Demanding guidance allowing motor carriers to use hair testing to detect drug use**
- **Providing an update on the establishment of a national AV framework**
- **Requiring a study on congestion pricing, specifically its impact on finances, safety, emissions, and congestion**
- **Strengthening oversight of the Training Provider Registry**
- **Enforcing English language proficiency requirements**

The legislation now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law.

Data-Driven Road Safety Expands to SoCal Priority Corridor

California Transportation leaders have announced a Riverside County trouble spot as the latest priority corridor in the state's effort to decrease major crashes in high-risk areas.

Spanning 2.3 miles in the Coachella Valley, the **Varnier Road safety corridor has experienced 17 fatal/serious injury (FSI) crashes between 2019 and 2023, resulting in four fatalities.**



The pilot project is designed to implement safety measures that address low-visibility incidents identified in recent collision data. Raised medians, rumble strips, longitudinal striping, upgraded lighting and signage and a reduction in on-street parking represent a few potential safety improvements.

As part of the initiative, the state for the first time analyzed data from all public roads including state highways, city streets and county roads. The most recent statewide data, from 2023, confirms 3,612 fatalities and 14,392 serious injuries in California on both the State Highway System and local roads. Additional safety corridor locations are still being reviewed.

Infrastructure improvements, public engagement and policy innovation include:

- **Safe Crossings and Intersections:** Expect high-visibility markings, upgraded signal timing and intersection designs that reduce conflict points and improve pedestrian safety.
- **Connected Options:** Enhancements will support safe walking, biking and transit access—ensuring mobility for all.
- **Education and Engagement:** The new SLOWCAL campaign will raise awareness and foster community involvement through outreach and education.
- **Law Enforcement Partnerships:** Where desired by communities, law enforcement will play a supportive role shaped by local priorities.
- **Speed Management:** Measures include speed safety cameras and other tools to promote safe operating speeds.

Success will be tracked through reductions in fatal and serious-injury crashes. Leading indicators — such as vehicle speeds, conflict points and telematics data (including braking and acceleration patterns) — will help detect risk early and guide proactive adjustments.

For information about transportation projects transforming communities throughout the state, visit: [Build.ca.gov](https://www.build.ca.gov).

FMCSA Regional Winter Weather HOS Waiver Expires Friday



Last month the **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)** issued a **Regional Emergency Declaration** providing temporary hours-of-service (HOS) relief for certain motor carriers and drivers. **Barring an extension the waiver expires this Friday, February 6.**

Who Is Covered

Motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance to emergency relief efforts in the affected states.

States Affected

AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MS, MN, MO, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY

What Relief Is Granted

Temporary relief from:

- **49 CFR § 395.3 – Property-carrying vehicle driving limits**
- **49 CFR § 395.5 – Passenger-carrying vehicle driving limits**

Relief applies regardless of trip origin, as long as the operation supports emergency relief in the affected states.

What Counts as Direct Assistance

Transportation or services supporting the immediate restoration of essential supplies or services during the emergency.

Does NOT include

- Routine commercial deliveries
- Mixed loads with nominal emergency supplies
- Long-term recovery or infrastructure repair after the emergency phase

Key Restrictions

- All other FMCSRs remain in effect, including CDL, drug and alcohol testing, insurance, HAZMAT, and size/weight requirements.
- Out-of-service drivers or carriers are NOT eligible until the order is officially lifted.
- When emergency assistance ends, normal HOS rules apply, with required rest breaks before resuming standard operations.

Duration

Effective through February 6, 2026, or until the emergency ends, whichever comes first. FMCSA may modify, extend, or terminate the declaration based on conditions.

This waiver supports urgent winter emergency response while maintaining overall safety. Apply relief only to qualifying emergency operations.

FMCSA's full waiver can be found [here](#).

XPO Steps Up for Non-Profit in Need



We want to recognize CTA members **XPO** for their help in getting emergency materials transported free-of-charge over the last several days for a Yuba City non-profit.

A few times a year our friends at the **American Logistics Aid Network (ALAN)** will contact us with a transport need. Proving that our industry goes the extra mile for those in need, our members typically come through within a day or two.

Thank you, XPO and our past participants with ALAN, for going the extra mile.



AWARD/SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

TUFSOB: Calling All Scholars

The **TUFSOB (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](#)

WEBINARS

Public Workshop to Introduce Carl Moyer Program Updates

The **California Air Resources Board (CARB)** has opened registration to participate remotely in the first public workshop to introduce the processes for updating the **Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (Carl Moyer Program)** guidelines.

During the workshop, CARB staff will provide an overview of the Carl Moyer Program, outline the upcoming process for potential updates to these incentive program's guidelines, and provide an opportunity for public input.

The public workshop will be held via a Zoom meeting:

Date: February 26
Time: 1:30 – 3:30
Location: Zoom Webinar/Teleconference

All interested parties are invited to attend the virtual public workshop. Please register prior to the event. Upon completion, you will receive an email with information on how to join the public workshop via digital/computer device or telephone on the day of the workshop.



[Click Here to Register](#)

EVENTS

Kern Unit Lamb Fry/President's Night

The sheep are nervous: **Kern Unit's 2026 Lamb Fry** is happening **March 5th in Bakersfield**. If you're a culinary adventurer, this is the certainly place to be on a Thursday night.

The event will be held at the **Woolgrowers Restaurant** at 620 E. 19th St. in Bakersfield.

Registration is now open with special group pricing for sponsor and table packages. [Click here for more information.](#)



Registration Now Open for TDC26

CTA's annual **Truck Driving Championships (TDC)** begins in a little less than three months. We've already opened our [TDC26 online registrations](#) at Caltrux.com.

Our first event, for northern California, will be held at **FedEx Freight's yard in West Sacramento on April 11**. The second event, 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!

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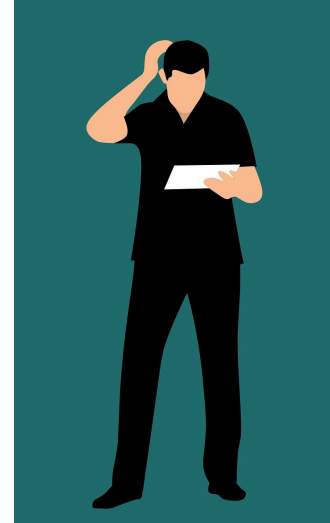
Remember to use the "Help Desk Online Contact Form" when you have a compliance or regulatory question on an issue.

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.



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

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



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

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](#)



CIRCLE CLUB SPONSOR

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

We encourage our members to take advantage of these special offers and support these affiliated businesses.

[Click here to view CTA Circle Club Sponsor companies and their promotions.](#)

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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.