



safety. workforce. business success. leadership.

## MTA 2025 SAFETY CONFERENCE

*Collaborate. Learn. Succeed.*

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Vadnais Heights Commons, Vadnais Heights, MN

### PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE:

- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.                    **Check-In Open, Attendee Hot Breakfast Served**  
Sponsor Tables Open, Attendee Networking  
NEXTLEADER Breakfast with Safety Directors
- 8:30 – 8:40 a.m.                    Welcome – John Hausladen  
Emcee – Karsen Ulwelling (Committee Chair), Valley Transportation Service
- 8:40 – 9:30 a.m.                    **GENERAL SESSION #1**  
**Title: FMCSA Update**  
Speaker: Chuck St. Martin, FMCSA MN Division Administrator  
Learning Outcome:  
Chuck will be providing an FMCSA update to include Clearinghouse II, the impact of the new administration on existing initiatives, changes to the Crash Preventability program, pending changes to the SMS, and more.
- 9:30 – 9:45 a.m.                    **BREAK: Networking / Visit Sponsor Tables**
- 9:45 – 10:15 a.m.                    **GENERAL SESSION #2**  
**Title: Commercial Enforcement Update**  
Speaker: Captain Robert Zak, MN State Patrol  
Learning Outcome:  
This session will focus on key crash data analysis and the role safety professionals can play, the top five out-of-service violations, emerging patrol technologies in commercial enforcement inspections and scale visits, and the process by which carriers are selected for inspection.
- 10:15 – 10:55 a.m.                    **GENERAL SESSION #3**  
**Title: Mind the Safety Gap – What Happens After Driver Orientation**  
Speaker: Dave Foster – Bay & Bay Transportation  
Learning Outcome:  
This session will help you understand the Driver’s perspective when going through orientation, provide you with ideas to improve the likelihood of capturing the drivers’ ownership of your company’s safety culture, and how to keep drivers and non-driving staff engaged in safety.
- 10:55 – 11:10 a.m.                    **BREAK: Networking / Visit Sponsor Tables**

### MINNESOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

6160 Summit Dr. N #330, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430  
www.mntruck.org | mta@mntruck.org | 651.646.7351

11:10 – 11:15 a.m.

## **Critical Safety Conversations**

### **Review the Topics and Attendees Move to Topic Table TOPICS with Facilitators & NEXTLEADERS**

**Topic 1: Mitigating Workplace Injury** – Randy Luckow (Dart Transit)

**Topic 2: Managing Your CSA: Navigating SMS, FMCSA Portal, CAB report, and Crash Preventability Program** – Dave Foster (Bay & Bay Transportation)

**Topic 3: Scale Bypass Technology** – Jeff Reeves (Bay & Bay Transportation)

**Topic 4: Driver Recognition Programs & Coaching** – Chris Carpenter (American Logistics Service)

**Topic 5: Hazmat Driver Compliance** – Rick Rumbaugh (TA Dedicated)

**Topic 6: Cargo Theft** – Jan Markison (Great West Casualty Company)

**Topic 7: Commercial Enforcement** – Cpt. Robert Zak (MN State Patrol)

**Topic 8: FMCSA** – Charles St. Martin (FMCSA)

**Topic 9: Driver Situational Awareness & Training** – Eric Evenson (Dohrn Transfer)

**Topic 10: Best Practices for New Driver Vetting** – Mehdi Arradizadeh (ATS)

**Topic 11: Connecting with the Community to Improve Safety** -- Dustin Berger (Kottke Trucking)

**Topic 12: Driver Exit Strategies** – Jessica Lodermeier (K-Way Express)

11:15 – 12:00 p.m.

### **Critical Safety Conversations Round 1 – Table Topic Conversations**

Roundtable discussions around identified topics  
Each table has a safety director facilitator and a NEXTLEADER recorder/reporter

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch Buffet/Networking/ Visit Sponsor Tables

1:00 – 1:45 p.m.

### **Critical Safety Conversations Round 2 – Table Topic Conversations**

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

**Critical Safety Conversations – Reporting back on solutions to issues  
NEXTLEADERS serve as Reporters**

2:00 – 2:10 p.m.

BREAK: Networking / Visit Sponsor Tables

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2:10 – 3:00 p.m.

**SESSION #4: Closing Keynote**

Title: The Modern Safety Playbook for Success

Speaker: Jason Ahten, Senior Director of Fleet Safety, Wal-Mart

Learning Outcome:

During this session you will learn actionable items to improve your safety program whether you operate 15 trucks or 15,000 trucks. How to use data and technology to transform a safety program. As fleets continue to explore and implement new technologies, our access to data has never been greater. How we access and analyze this data to proactively spot and mitigate risk has changed the role of a safety professional dramatically. We will discuss strategies and best practices to focus on drivers most at risk and the most important elements to focus on to avoid getting bogged down in the data. Driving safety culture in the ever-changing driver demographic. We will examine the challenge of change, the risk in not changing, and how to motivate drivers to be the owners of the safety culture.

3:00 p.m.

Wrap-Up  
Adjourn

**Driver of the Year Banquet to Follow (Separate Ticket)**

4:30 p.m.

Drivers & Guest arrive for rehearsal

5:00 p.m.

Reception

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Dinner & Program