

WCFSFA September 2019

Luke Vaughn from Lanier Upshaw opened the meeting with a review of the mission of the West Coast Florida Safety Alliance. A self-introduction was made by all attendees.

Other safety related activities taking place are:

Oct 17th METRA Environmental training at Sea World \$35 CEUs are available

Sept 26th ASSP/WISE LO/TO at Busch Gardens Free

For commercial auto coverage, businesses are seeing non-renewals, cancellations, and frequency and severity increases.

Today's Speaker – Paul Keller

2014 FDOT Safety Manager and currently the Maintenance Operations Manager for the local district.

At the Florida DOT, there are currently 6,500 employees in the state spread throughout 7 districts and the turnpike operations. The Maintenance Operations group are the employees who are out on the roadway tending to potholes, painting, roadway maintenance and acting as a liaison with private industry, the FL Hwy Patrol, and FHSMV.

It is currently Brake safety week in FL which means there are ongoing inspections on the roadside for Commercial Motor Vehicles in an effort to identify critical violations related to vehicle braking systems. These vehicles are on the road every day and we are on the road with them so we have the exposure every day.

The DOT, as part of public education activities, offers Public Service Announcements aimed towards getting you home safely each night:

Stay out of the blind spot: If you can't C my mirrors, I can't C you

Please pass on the left

Maintain a constant speed

Leave room in front of a Commercial Motor Vehicle

Please have patience if a truck is not up to speed like you

Report aggressive driving to FHP

Paul adds to watch out for rental trucks – they are likely driven by someone with no CDL and little experience.

There are dozens of rules and regulations to follow. All of these have come about for the safety of persons involved in doing the work and the general public. They are there because a bad decision was made, someone was injured, and so we end up with "don't do that again" rules.

FLHSMV.gov will have the most up to date rules/regulations. Some are shown here in the slides. (Slides will be posted to the website)

Changes are made very year. The FL Legislature meets in the Spring to consider changes, with any changes eventually coming later in the year.

Example of a new rule: Remain in right lane unless passing.

FHP compliance officers are on the road to monitor for safety violations. They have authority to red tag a vehicle. When a red tag is issued, the violation must be corrected before the vehicle is permitted to move. They tend to target CDL drivers for new legislation before the general public.

Be cautious, be aware – there are hazards out there every day you are on the road.
Watch what the other guy may be doing.

When statistics are published each year, FL is consistently at top of the charts for vehicle crashes and number of fatalities. Hillsborough County is consistently at the top of pedestrian fatalities.

Violation trends are those with a higher impact: load securement – maintenance of brake systems – driver records.

MOT/TTC (Temp Traffic Control) guidelines have changed and then changed back.
Paul is unaware of any upcoming pending changes.

It was agreed that the ability to operate an RV would be a welcome endorsement for a license.

Asked what keeps him up at night, Paul responded it was the emergency callouts that interfere with scheduled maintenance. The most dreaded callouts are the fatality TTC roadside work protecting law enforcement as they investigate. It is an event that affects someone's family forever.

Luke Vaughn added some information:

As an insurance broker, they are seeing the exposures associate with non-DOT CMV driving – ex: your employee drives their own vehicle on behalf of the employer.

Considerations are: Driver eligibility guidelines, Age requirements, MVR reviews, Training, Vehicle Inspections, and What to do if an incident occurs.

He recommends signing up with a vendor for live updates of traffic infractions.

Anastasia Settle from Eckman/Freeman shared that as we age, decreasing eye sight is not only age related. To help you can request a Useful field of vision test for your employee. Eyesight is also affected by medications, one of the most common being blood pressure medications that many of us take.

Also helpful is a policy on cell phones in vehicles which needs the support of senior management. Utilize a vendor that disables phones when vehicle in motion.