

## National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is Here!!

By now, your plans should be in place for next week's recognition of your drivers. National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is about letting your drivers know they are valued - and at the same time, letting the nation know just how important your drivers are for our country. There are so many things that you can do to show your drivers that they are appreciated for what they do on a daily basis. Many companies have cookouts, gift bags, shirts, hats, etc. to show their appreciation for a job well done. Today, there are over 3.5 million professional truck drivers nationwide - delivering the goods U.S. consumers need every day of the year. Logging over 400 billion miles per year, trucks delivered 10.7 billion tons of freight in 2007, or 69 percent of total U.S. freight tonnage. Professional truck drivers are more essential to the national economy than ever before, and they are delivering their loads safely and professionally. Make sure that you show them next week and every week how valuable they are to the operations and profitability of your company.

**CVSA Brake Safety Week**  
September 21- 27, 2008. The CVSA will be completing additional education and enforcement during this week.



## Students are Headed Back to School!!

Many schools will be starting in the next few weeks and it is time to review with your drivers the added exposures that exist on the roadways with schools in session. For many route drivers, this means adjusting their routine while for others, it simply means more traffic. Since school was last in session in May we have seen a significant increase in the cost of fuel. You should be aware that there will be an increased number of students this year riding bicycles, motorcycles, and walking. The following are safe driving tips that address the added exposures to drivers with students back in school:

- Reduce speed when encountering bicyclists.
- Bicycles are considered vehicles, so give them the appropriate right-of-way and treat them with the same consideration you would give another driver.
- Give bicyclists more time. Keep in mind that bikes take longer than cars to cross intersections.
- Be aware. Keep your eyes open because cyclists can be hard to see at times. Pay special attention in intersections and when you open car doors.
- Pass with care. Take your time when passing cyclists and give them plenty of room. Wait until it's safe to pass and when you do, be sure to leave at least 3 feet between your car and the cyclist.
- Use caution around kids. Expect the unexpected when you see a child on a bike and be especially careful of your actions and your speed.

## School Buses and Laws

Even if you do not have kids in school, it's not hard to see the increase in school buses around this time. Laws vary by state, but usually you have to stop if a school bus is loading or unloading—no matter what side of the street it's on. Passing a school bus while its red lights are flashing is illegal in every state. Watch for school buses stopping at railroad tracks. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the local laws regarding school buses. In their guide, "Reducing Illegal Passing of School Buses," the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that many school buses are illegally passed about once a day. Some buses are even passed on the right (the side children use).

## School Zones

- Be attentive around schools.
- Stop for school buses that are loading and unloading students.
- Check your state's laws regarding school zones.
- If you are unsure, slow down when school is in session, especially if you see children or crossing guards.
- Obey all school zone speed limits and crossing guards. If cars ahead of you are stopped, it may be to allow a pedestrian to cross. Do not pass if you have any doubt.
- Don't assume that pedestrians or bicyclists who see you will act predictably.