



# Truckload Carriers Association (TCA)

## 2025 Safety & Security Meeting Schedule of Events

### Sunday, June 8

- 11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.      TCA Safety Officers Meeting  
*By Invitation Only*
- 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.      Attendee Orientation  
*Open to All Attendees*  
A review of the schedule of events in detail from a TCA Staff Member.  
Gain an understanding of the session objectives.
- 2:15 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.      Regulatory Update: Truckload Inside the Beltway  
TCA's Senior Vice President, Safety & Government Affairs, Dave Heller, will provide his annual address on the ever-changing regulatory and legislative landscape as it relates to trucking and transportation. Some key topics will include speed limiters, drug and alcohol testing, and more. Gain insight into the recent regulations mandated by the FMCSA and understand how the new administration will impact future agency regulations.
- 3:45 P.M. - 5:15 P.M.      General Session
- Recognition Ceremony of the 2025 TCA Fleet Safety Award Winners  
*Sponsored by Great West Casualty and Assured Partners*
  - Comments by Jim Ward, TCA President
  - Making the Silent Threat: Safeguarding Your Freight from Fraud and Double Brokering  
*Speaker: Scott Cornell, National Practice Lead, Transportation/ Inland Marine Crime & Theft Specialist, Travelers*
- 5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.      Exhibit Hall Opening and Reception  
Explore the Exhibit Hall and discover the important products and services geared to enhance your business, while enjoying the reception.

## **Monday, June 9**

- 7:00 A.M. - 7:45 A.M.      Networking Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall  
Begin the day with a breakfast buffet and network with exhibitors.
- 8:00 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.      General Session
- Comments by Karen Smerchek, TCA Chair and President of Veriha Trucking, Inc.
  - Understanding Insurance Rates: Insights For the Trucking Industry  
*Panelists:*
    - Robert Dunn, ARM, AU, CPCU, Chief Brokering Officer, Transportation & Logistics Practice Commercial Risk Solutions, Aon
    - Vikas Shah, Executive Vice President, Marketing & Analytics, DMC Insurance, Inc.
- Moderator:* Eric Tompkins, Director of Risk Management, Maverick Transportation, LLC
- 9:45 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.      Refreshment Break  
*Sponsored by Pilot Flying J*
- 10:00 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.      Safety in the Rounds: Safety Forum Q&A  
These popular engaging sessions leverage group knowledge to address common safety management challenges. Come with a question and leave with answers, along with the satisfaction of knowing your professional expertise has contributed to helping a fellow trucking industry professional. Vendors are welcome to join and share their unique insights, further enhancing these collaborative discussions.
- 11:30 A.M. - 1:15 P.M.      Luncheon in the Exhibit Hall  
Explore the latest in innovative technology, products, and services to enhance your business.
- 1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.      Concurrent Workshop Series #1
- **Planting the Seed: Growing Technology Adoption in Your Fleet**  
Convincing your team to embrace new technology can be challenging, but with the right approach, the benefits can be transformative. This session will provide actionable strategies for selling the value of technology, demonstrating a strong return on investment (ROI), and setting realistic expectations for implementation timelines.  
*Speaker:* Jeremy Stickling, Chief Administrative Officer, Nussbaum Transportation Services, Inc.

## Monday, June 9, Continued

1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

### Concurrent Workshop Series #1 Continued

- **Safety on Stage: Responding to a Trucking Emergency**  
This interactive session features carrier professionals portraying what a safety director should and should not do in the aftermath of a truck accident. Learn critical steps for effective crisis management, including communication with authorities, victims, and the public. Discover how to develop a crisis communication plan, conduct internal investigations, and balance driver accountability with support.  
*Panelists:*
  - Jill Maschmeier, CDS, Director of Safety, National Carriers, Inc.
  - Raul Soria, CDS, Director of Safety, Hill Brothers Transportation Inc.*Moderator:* Tracy Rushing, CDS, Executive Director of Safety & HR, R.E. Garrison, Inc.
  
- **The Blueprint: The Art of Safety Manual Development**  
Learn the key elements of creating a comprehensive safety manual, from writing clear and effective policies to avoiding common pitfalls. This session will provide practical tips to ensure your manual balances detailed guidelines with real-world application, helping you bridge the gap between policy and practice.  
*Speaker:* Doug Marcello, Shareholder, Saxton & Stump
  
- **Behind the Wheel of Safety: A Day in the Life of a Safety Director**  
Dive into the multifaceted role of safety directors and gain insights into their key responsibilities and challenges. This session will cover strategies for identifying safety risks, developing mitigation plans, and implementing effective safety programs to reduce accidents and injuries. Explore the latest safety technologies and learn how to integrate them into your fleet. Additionally, discover best practices for clear communication with drivers, management, and regulatory agencies to foster a culture of safety and compliance.  
*Panelists:*
  - Nathaniel Leis, Director of Safety, Anderson Trucking Service, Inc.
  - Emory Mills, CDS, Senior Vice President, FTC Transportation, Inc.*Moderator:* Mehdi Arradizadeh, Vice President of Safety & Risk Management, Anderson Trucking Service, Inc.

## Monday, June 9, continued

2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

Concurrent Workshop Series #2

- **Planting the Seed: Growing Technology Adoption in Your Fleet**  
Convincing your team to embrace new technology can be challenging, but with the right approach, the benefits can be transformative. This session will provide actionable strategies for selling the value of technology, demonstrating a strong return on investment (ROI), and setting realistic expectations for implementation timelines.  
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- **Steering Clear: Effective Strategies to Prevent Truck Accidents**  
Explore the most common types of truck accidents and their underlying causes, equipping you with the knowledge to identify risk factors and take proactive steps to enhance safety. Learn how to minimize the impact of fatigue-related incidents and address the root causes of truck accidents to protect drivers, cargo, and your fleet.  
*Panelists:*
  - Stephanie Fensom, Senior Manager, Safety and Compliance, Bison Transport
  - Tim Kordula, Safety and Training Development Manager, Veriha Trucking, Inc.
  - Misti Olszewski, Vice President of Enterprise Safety, Covenant Logistics Group, Inc.
  - Melissa Stephan, Director of Safety, Melton Truck Lines, Inc.*Moderator:* Keith Stelzer, Vice President of Safety & Recruiting, Paper Transport, Inc.

## **Monday, June 9, continued**

2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

### Concurrent Workshop Series #2

➤ **Driving Performance: The Power of Coaching in Action**

This session will highlight the critical role of effective coaching in driver performance, focusing on strategies to provide constructive feedback and motivate drivers. Learn how to strike the right balance between disciplinary action and supportive coaching, ensuring both compliance and improvement. Explore key indicators that coaching may no longer be effective and when termination might be necessary. By the end of the session, you'll be equipped with the tools to foster a positive coaching environment, address performance issues, and drive success within your fleet.

*Panelists:*

- Sarah Cates, CSS, CDS, Director of Safety, Thomas E. Keller Trucking, Inc.
- Rick Schmidt, Director of HR & Safety, Nussbaum Transportation Services, Inc.

*Moderator:* Tim Clark, CDS, Vice President of Safety, Big G Express

4:00 P.M. - 5:15 P.M.

### General Session

- Safety Professional of The Year Award Ceremony
- Keynote Address by Raymont Harris

Join Raymont Harris, former NFL running back and Ohio State Buckeye, for an inspiring and transformative session on Elite Mindset & Performance (EMP). Raymont shares a fun and exciting method to unlock your full potential, build resilience, and cultivate the mindset needed to be the best version of yourself. This session is perfect for anyone striving to excel in their personal or professional pursuits. Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights from a true game-changer!

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

### Exhibit Hall Reception

The right way to unwind from the productive day and make final connections with the exhibitors.

## **Tuesday, June 10**

7:00 A.M. - 7:45 A.M.

### Networking Breakfast

Coffee and a hot breakfast as you network and share the valuable insights gained from the meeting.

## Tuesday, June 10, Continued

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Concurrent Workshop Series #3

- **The Blueprint: The Art of Safety Manual Development**  
Learn the key elements of creating a comprehensive safety manual, from writing clear and effective policies to avoiding common pitfalls. This session will provide practical tips to ensure your manual balances detailed guidelines with real-world application, helping you bridge the gap between policy and practice.

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9:15 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

**TCA Preview: The TCA Safety Composite**

TCA motor carriers are inundated with data that is related to their safety performance. Whether it is the newest, latest and greatest technology or the standard government issued CSA algorithm, carriers can often highlight opportunities for improvement. Navigating safety variables is one thing but comparing your performance to other motor carrier members is a game changer. TCA is in the process of developing a tool that would inevitably compare your fleet's performance to that of other TCA members in an effort to identify the best operators in the world of safety so that you too can mirror their excellence.

*Panelists:*

❖ Dean Newell, Vice President, Safety and Driver Training  
Maverick Transportation, LLC

❖ Garth Pitzel, Associate Vice President, Safety and Driver  
Development, Bison Transport

*Moderator:* David Heller, Senior Vice President,  
Safety & Government Affairs, Truckload Carriers Association

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10:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.      A View from the Driver's Seat  
Featuring TCA's 2025 & 2024 Professional Drivers of the Year, these experts will provide perspectives on the best strategies for getting them home safely. Tapping into the wisdom and experience of the winners onstage, the discussion will focus on how to make experienced drivers into professional drivers— and how to thoughtfully support newer drivers.

- Learn the importance of driver training and development.
- Identify the driver's expectations and reasons why they stay loyal.
- Gain insights into driver safety tips directly from drivers.

*Speakers:*

Perry Carter, Cargo Transporters, Inc. - 2025 Professional Driver of the Year  
Scott Lindsey, Cheema Freightlines - 2025 Professional Driver of the Year  
Rosalinda Bradford, Knight Swift - 2024 Professional Driver of the Year  
Tim Chelette, Big G Express - 2024 Professional Driver of the Year

*Moderator:* Mike Bastuk, Sales Director for Fleet Sales, Cummins