

IOWA MOTOR TRUCK ASSOCIATION SAFETY PROFESSIONALS Conference



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 & THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026
IMTA Office • Des Moines, Iowa



SAFETY NEVER STANDS STILL . . . AND NEITHER CAN YOU.

The Safety Professionals Conference delivers two high-impact days designed to keep you ahead of evolving regulations, emerging trends, and real-world challenges facing today's trucking operations. Gain practical strategies you can implement immediately, hear from industry experts who understand the landscape, and walk away with tools that strengthen your safety culture.

Beyond the sessions, this is your opportunity to connect with fellow safety leaders, exchange ideas, and build relationships that extend far beyond the conference room.

INVEST IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE. STRENGTHEN YOUR PROGRAM. LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

This conference is included with ICSM membership, but registration is still required. Please select the "ICSM Member" option when completing your registration.



- » **REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Monday, April 6, 2026
- » **REFUND DEADLINE:** Monday, March 16, 2026
- » **HOW TO REGISTER:** www.iowamotortruck.com

Conference Sponsors



IOWA MOTOR TRUCK ASSOCIATION

SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Conference

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

12:30 – 12:45 PM
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

12:45 – 1:15 PM
IMTA UPDATE
Brenda Neville, Iowa Motor Truck Association

1:15 – 2:15 PM
ATA SAFETY REGULATORY UPDATE
Dan Horvath, American Trucking Associations
Hear from ATA on the latest regulatory information at a national level. Dan will review what regulatory changes have taken place and what may be on the horizon through the rest of 2026 and beyond.

2:15 – 2:30 PM
NETWORKING BREAK

2:30 – 3:30 PM
TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE BILLBOARD LAWYERS!
Larry Hall & Matt Kouri, Chartwell Law
Tired of being fearful about litigation. So are we! In this presentation we will cover how we are taking the fight to the billboard lawyers to deny claims, achieve lower settlements, or prevail in the courtroom. In this presentation, we will cover how the use of new technologies, attacking lien-based care providers, preparing your companies written materials, and preparing your witnesses can set you up to throw the punches in litigation you have always wanted to throw. We will bring real world experience from the Courtroom and talk about why we have been able to achieve successful results in the Courtroom.

3:30 – 4:30 PM
CHANGING 61: HOW THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY CAN GIVE DRIVERS THEIR LIVES BACK
Dr. Mark Manera, Project 61
The trucking industry is facing a crisis hiding in plain sight. The average truck driver dies 16 years earlier than the average American, largely due to preventable, obesity-related chronic disease like cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and hypertension. This isn't just a health issue, it's a human issue, a risk issue, and a cost issue that shows up everywhere carriers feel pain: healthcare spend, workers' comp, absenteeism, turnover, and safety outcomes. The real enemy isn't drivers. It isn't fleets. It's 61, the average life expectancy of a CDL driver that the industry has unknowingly accepted for decades.



DAY TWO: THURSDAY, APRIL 16

7:45 – 8:15 AM
WARM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

8:15 – 9:45 AM
NAVIGATING THE NEW ERA OF FEDERAL COMPLIANCE: FMCSA UPDATES 2025-2026
Amanda R. Bax-Whittle, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Over the past year, the regulatory landscape for commercial transportation has shifted significantly as FMCSA accelerates modernization and safety initiatives. This session examines key changes, including the phase-out of MC Numbers in favor of a unified USDOT registration system and the new federal mandate for Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) on heavy vehicles. Learn how these updates are reshaping compliance and signaling a move toward a more data-driven, technology-focused regulatory framework.

9:45 – 10:00 AM
NETWORKING BREAK

10:00 – 11:15 AM
PROFESSIONAL DRIVER PANEL
Panelists: Leland Hildebrandt (Ruan) & Kent Moeckly (Casey's)
Moderator: Adam Tallmon, Alliance Interstate Risk
Join us for an enlightening panel discussion featuring experienced professional drivers sharing insights into their safety habits and the practices that ensure they return home safely each day. These seasoned drivers will offer invaluable perspectives they are faced with each day. Don't miss the opportunity to gain firsthand wisdom from these industry professionals.

11:15 – 12:00 PM
NETWORKING LUNCH

12:00 – 1:00 PM
TIRE & WHEEL SAFETY
Todd Nietzel, Pomp's Tire Service, Inc.
Within this session, we will be reviewing some important process steps for inspecting, mounting/demounting, inflation and installing tire and wheel assemblies according to the Tire Industry Association (TIA). We will also see what can happen if proper processes aren't followed and the potential dangerous outcomes.

1:00 – 1:15 PM
NETWORKING BREAK

1:15 – 2:15 PM
SLEEP APNEA AND TRANSPORTATION SAFETY
John Hickok, iSLEEP
This session explores obstructive sleep apnea as a critical safety and health concern within the transportation industry, particularly among safety-sensitive employees. Learn about its prevalence among commercial drivers, its impact on fatigue and crash risk, and relevant DOT and FMCSA guidance. Attendees will gain practical insight into identifying and managing sleep apnea within a safety program, including screening considerations and compliance-focused strategies to reduce risk and support workforce health.

2:15 – 2:30 PM
CONCLUDING REMARKS / ADJOURNMENT