



January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Join with ICSA and Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) to fight this modern-day form of slavery.

**HERE'S A BRIEF SNAPSHOT OF WHAT  
TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR:**



Someone (typically older male) being controlling, threatening or even violent with an individual (typically younger female).

William had parked at a truck stop for the evening when an underage girl knocked on his truck door and solicited him for sex. After William told the girl he was not interested, he observed her knocking on the doors of several other trucks before getting into one. *During this time, William also saw an adult man walking around the lot and noticed that he appeared to be watching the girl closely.*

Since William had received training from TAT, he recognized the signs of a potential trafficking situation and knew to call 911 first before making a call to the National Human Trafficking Hotline to report the situation.

**MAKE THE CALL,  
SAVE LIVES**

For more information on how to get involved, read the guest editorial by TAT's Founder and Executive Director, Kendis Paris, on p. 3. Or log onto: [www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org](http://www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org).

**Truckers Among "Essential Workers" for Vaccine**

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is recommending that truckers and other transportation workers be third in line to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Truckers are in a category known as "essential workers", after Groups 1a and 1b. Group 1a includes health care workers and nursing home residents; Group 1b includes first responders, education, grocery store workers and others considered "frontline essential" workers.

While these are recommendations and not mandates, many states are expected to follow them. APIC estimates there are 129 million persons in the Group 1c category, including the age group 65-74, as well as those

who are younger but who have pre-existing conditions that put them at greater risk for the virus.

Federal officials say there is enough vaccine to inoculate about 100 million people in the first two categories. But with vaccinations in the first two groups lagging behind schedule, it could be March or even April before truckers can expect to be vaccinated.

To find out when your state will be making vaccines available to Group 1c, or if you are eligible under Group 1b, contact your state health department. In some states, enrollment is being handled by county health agencies. All vaccinations are free of charge as part of the federal government's CARES Act. Until you can get yours, stay safe!

## Coaching Corner

By Mike Hitchcock, ICSA Safety Consultant

*I've seen and done a lot in my several decades in trucking, starting out as an owner/operator, then a company driver, then working my way into driver training, and finally to becoming a senior safety director in a large trucking company. Along the way, I've learned a thing or two about how to make safety pay dividends. I'm excited about my new role serving ICSA as its full time Safety Consultant. You'll see Coaching Corner as a regular newsletter and website feature, and I will appreciate having your suggestions for topics to cover.*

### **The value of dashcams to your business**

I was once told: The best drivers on the road each think that they are the best! They also think that their truck is (no matter how old) the best truck on the road! True or not, we do know that truckers like the freedom of the road and the independent lifestyle. Seasoned drivers will admit that their greatest safety challenge is avoiding complacency. So how do you make a good driver a great driver? A safer driver? How do you reduce the odds of you or your driver being involved in an accident?

There are a lot of new technologies being developed today to help. One of the most helpful is video cameras. SmartDrive is the system I am most familiar with and the approved vendor for ICSA. Being in trucking for over 40 years, I have seen so many recent accidents that used to be charged against the trucker now being accurately charged back to the motorist. In the past we could never prove a car cut us off. Now we can. That being said, no one wants to be in an accident no matter whose fault it is. How can we affect that?

I can't tell you that a driver with a good SmartDrive score will not be in an accident. I also can't tell you if you smoke you will get cancer. I can tell you that the odds are against you if you smoke and the odds are against a driver with a high Smartdrive score. They are at higher risk of being involved in their own accident or someone else's. They are also more difficult to defend as a safe driver if they ever have to go to court for any reason.

Many drivers have a fear of video cameras, but in my experience, they make a good driver a better driver. The Navy takes video of every carrier landing no matter how many years of experience the pilot has. The pilot is debriefed using that video after every trap. Why do they do this? To keep getting better!

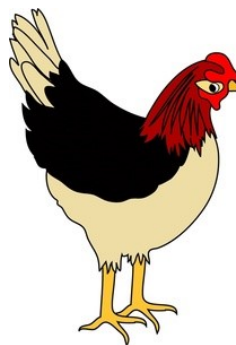
Video technology is being used all over the country to help good drivers get even better and reduce the chances of being in a crash. Defensive driving instructors will tell you that nearly all crashes can be prevented, given enough time and space. Video reviews help the professional driver fight complacency and help give them that time and space.

More to come on this topic soon!

### **Many FMCSA Waivers Expiring February 28, 2021**

It may seem a long time ago when COVID-19 hit the U.S. and states went into lockdown mode to "flatten the curve." The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued its first waivers of enforcement of many motor carrier regulations on March 24, then extended them again as the pandemic lingered on.

Among the most critical waivers were those extending renewal deadlines for CDLs, CLPs and/or medical cards to February 28, 2021 for drivers whose credentials were due to expire on or after March 1, 2020.



Now, almost a year later, many of us have been operating on expired licenses so long that we've nearly forgotten that FMCSA set a finite deadline by which these credential waivers were set to expire. Or, to quote my grandpa, "The chickens are coming home to roost!" And with a new administra-

tion coming in January 20, we have no assurance that FMCSA will extend waivers for CDLs and medical cards beyond Feb. 28, 2021.

So there's no time to waste, despite the fact that many state CDL agencies are still not fully operational and are trying to clear months-long backlogs. Likewise, many physicians facilities that conduct driver physicals are restricting the types of services they are providing to patients who have immediate medical needs.

If you have expired credentials, we strongly recommend you act as soon as possible to contact your state DMV to schedule your renewal and, if you have an expired medical certificate, schedule an appointment for your driver physical.

## Guest Editorial

*featuring*

**Kendis Paris, Executive Director  
Truckers Against Trafficking**



Drivers, if you didn't realize before 2020 the essential role you perform keeping our culture and society moving and operating smoothly, COVID-19 should have proved that to you. But moving and delivering products and goods isn't the only essential function you can perform.

Human trafficking is a crime where a trafficker exploits a child or adult through force, fraud and/or coercion to provide sex or labor to someone, with the trafficker pocketing the money earned. Because traffickers are often moving their victims to the next buyers, truck drivers have proven to be essential front-line workers with this crime – the eyes and ears of our highways – helping law enforcement in the arrest of perpetrators and the recovery of victims.

To date, close to one million members of the trucking industry in the United States have taken the free, short training provided by Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), learning how to recognize and report human trafficking when they see it in the course of their regular jobs, and they've been registered as TAT Trained. These men and women, who have witnessed the prostitution of women and minors at various places throughout the United States for years but who hadn't known what it was – forced prostitution and modern-day slavery – have been calling the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) to report what they were seeing.

Polaris Project, which runs the hotline, reported that calls from truckers rose substantially starting in 2009 when TAT began. The latest numbers available from the NHTH show that as of mid 2020, truckers have made more than 2625 calls with 694 likely cases of trafficking, involving 1278 victims.

January has been designated National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Many organizations have activities planned across the nation to bring awareness to this horrific crime and help people understand the steps they can take to prevent it. Now is a perfect time for you to check out the [training TAT](#) offers drivers, so you can join the mobile army of transportation professionals working to end this crime and bring victims

Why truckers? Watching the TAT training DVD readily answers that question. **With one phone call, a trucker who saw some under-aged girls working a truck stop not only facilitated the recovery of those girls, but also that of seven other minors. Thirty-one offenders were arrested and a 13-state child sex trafficking ring was broken.**

Training and working with front-line responders in the transportation industry – whether trucking, bus or truck stop -- in the fight against human trafficking is a strategy that can and does yield big results ... and members of the trucking industry are some of the leading front-line responders. You are essential. You are Everyday Heroes.

## ICSA Forms Partnership with TAT



ICSA is partnering with TAT to encourage truckers to get TAT-trained and become certified in recognizing and reporting suspected human trafficking. In just a few weeks, you'll be able to visit our website at [www.safecarriers.org](http://www.safecarriers.org)

and be able to link directly to TAT's online training. If you are already TAT-trained, let us know so we can recognize you in our newsletter. To notify us, email: [karen.rasmussen@safecarriers.org](mailto:karen.rasmussen@safecarriers.org).



## Newest Everyday Heroes Truck Hits the Road

Watch for this beautiful new Freightliner out on the road hauling freight. Wrapped and donated by Swift Transportation, Swift driver Zeb Sousa will be operating the truck out of the company's Salt Lake City terminal. TAT and ICSA thank Swift for its