



Alabama Trucking Association  
Workers Compensation Fund

alliance

An OSHA Cooperative Program

*A Newsletter For Our Members Where Safety Is Our Primary Concern!*

**November  
2016**

### STAFF

KIMBLE E. COAKER, CPA  
CEO/Administrator

DON BOATRIGHT  
Chief Operating Officer  
dboatright@atacompfund.org

TODD HAGER  
Director of Claims  
thager@atacompfund.org

DOUG MOSELEY, CPA  
Director of Finance  
dmoseley@atacompfund.org

DEBRA L. CALHOUN  
Office Manager  
dealhoun@atacompfund.org

DON ANCHORS, CDS, CBES  
Director of Loss Control  
and Safety  
danchors@atacompfund.org

DUANE CALHOUN, CDS  
Loss Control Engineer  
tcalhoun@atacompfund.org

MICHAEL SMITH, CDS  
Loss Control Engineer  
msmith@atacompfund.org

VICTOR WHATLEY, CDS  
Loss Control Engineer  
vwhatley@atacompfund.org

KIMBERLY K. BEST  
Payroll/Audit Coordinator  
kbest@atacompfund.org

KIM CAMPBELL, AINS, AIS  
Underwriting Coordinator  
kcampbell@atacompfund.org

KATIE EDWARDS  
Accounting Specialist  
kedwards@atacompfund.org

ABBY GREER  
Marketing Representative  
agreer@atacompfund.org

## Final rule from FMCSA aimed at helping military vets become CMV drivers

Washington – Military veterans who operated commercial motor vehicles during their service will have an easier time obtaining learner's permits and driver's licenses to become CMV operators as civilians, thanks to a recently published [final rule](#) intended to simplify the process.

Currently, former service members must apply for a skills test waiver to drive a CMV no more than 90 days after leaving their military position. More than 10,100 formerly active military personnel took advantage of the skills test



waiver between May 2011 and February 2015, per the agency.

The new rule will extend that time frame to one year. In addition, the new rule will allow states to administer written and skills tests for a commercial learner's permit or commercial driver's license to active personnel who are stationed in that state even if they



are not full-time residents.

Per the FMCSA, any state that chooses to accept such an application must use the forms and procedures of the applicant's home state. Test results must be transmitted to the applicant's home state, which may then issue the permit or license based on the results.

The final rule references the agency's November 2013 report, [Program to Assist Veterans to Acquire Commercial Driver's Licenses](#). FMCSA concluded that lengthening the skills test waiver period "would ease the transition of service members and veterans to civilian life with no impact to safety."

"FMCSA believes the need to improve employment opportunities for military personnel returning to civilian life justifies the publication of this rule," the agency stated in the Federal Register.

The rule is scheduled to go into effect Dec. 12.



## ATV & UTV Safety

The ATV Safety Institute has outlined 7 golden rules of ATV safety. Those rules include:

- 1) Always wear DOT-compliant helmet, goggles, long sleeves, long pants, over the ankle boots, and gloves.
- 2) Never ride on paved roads. ATVs are designed to be operated off-highway and you could get hit by a vehicle when riding on the roads. If you must cross a road, only do so safely and when permitted by law.
- 3) Never ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

### ATV Safety Tips

\* **ALWAYS** Wear Safety Gear! NEVER EVER ride without a helmet!

\* **Pre Ride Inspection**- Always check gas, oil, connections and cables, lights. A 5 minute check, before a ride, could save you hours of walking back...

\* **Ride with a Buddy**- If any kind of accident should happen, or you were to become lost, having someone else with you could mean a big difference between getting the help you need.

\* **NO DRINKING OR DRUGS**- Rules are no different than driving a car! ATVs are NOT toys!

\* **Stay on Designated Trails**- If an accident should occur, or you break down, people need to be able to find you!

4) Never carry a passenger on a single-rider ATV, and never carry more than one passenger on an ATV/UTV designed for two people.

5) Ride an ATV that is appropriate for your age.

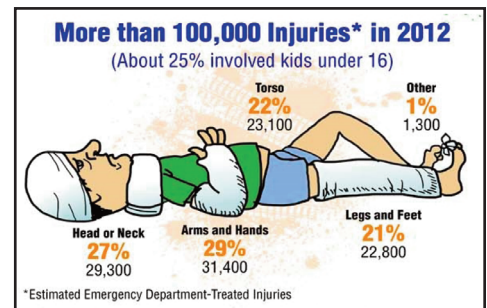
6) Supervise riders younger than 16 and recognize that ATVs are not toys.

7) Ride only on designated trails and always ride at a safe speed.

Visit [www.atvsafety.gov](http://www.atvsafety.gov) for more info!

Most Homeowner's Policies will exclude liability on ATV's & UTV's if you use them away from your owned property – your residence premises. You must purchase ATV / UTV liability insurance separately as you would your personal auto insurance to be properly covered while using your recreational vehicle away from your property. Always check with your personal

lines agent to obtain proper counsel regarding this coverage.



## QUICK AND EASY TANDEM PIN RELEASE AND TADEM SLIDE

For decades, the trucking industry has been fighting with Tandem Locking Pins. STA-RAT™ (Semi Tandem Axle-Release Assist Tool) eliminates the difficulties associated with releasing the tandem locking pins and holding them retracted until the tandem slide is completed.

STA-RAT™ always allows the driver to single handedly release the tandem locking pins while watching through the rear-view mirror. STA-RAT pin marker makes it easy for you to know when to stop without going back and forth to check it out.

When sliding tandems, STA-RAT stays in place, riding with the tandem until the tandem slide is complete and the driver removes the tool. STA-RAT is visible through the rear-view mirror, enabling the driver to see when the tandem is ready to slide. STA-RAT is easily removed and reloaded for the next hassle-free tandem slide.

STA-RAT can eliminate back injury and shoulder injury. The hands stay out of the "danger zone". A second person, who is normally put in a dangerous position, is not needed. STA-RAT eliminates the possibility of your driver having to continually enter and exit the truck while releasing the tandem pin. This eliminates unnecessary slip, trip & fall opportunities.

You can visit <https://sta-rat.com/> to learn more about this ergonomic product.

