

THE GREEN LIGHT

The official newsletter of ATA Comp Fund

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MODERN TOOLS, SAFER OUTCOMES

Safety in trucking is changing and technology is helping lead the way. Instead of waiting for injuries to happen, fleets now have tools that help spot risk earlier and respond faster. From wearables and real-time data to analytics and AI, technology is giving safety teams a clearer picture of what's happening on the road and on the job. Better visibility leads to better prevention. When we can see risk sooner, we can act sooner... and that makes a meaningful difference for everyone. How is technology reshaping safety in your operation today?

MODERNIZING SAFETY: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS RESHAPING INJURING PREVENTION

Abby Greer May 5, 2026

The trucking industry is evolving and so is the approach to workplace safety. At the recent Virginia Trucking Association HR & Safety Conference, Risk Manager **Jason Brown** shared how modern technology is transforming injury prevention, recovery, and workers' compensation outcomes. His message was clear: today's safety challenges require more than traditional tools - they require visibility.

WHY SAFETY MUST MODERNIZE

Injury severity across transportation continues to rise while the workforce ages and operational pressures grow. More complex yards, tighter schedules, increased cognitive load, fatigue, and slip-and-fall exposures all contribute to preventable injuries. At the same time, claims are becoming more complicated and documentation expectations continue to increase. "In this environment," Brown explained, "we can't rely on old playbooks. Prevention has to evolve."

From Reaction to Prediction *The Evolution of Trucking Safety*

Yesterday's Approach

- Incidents addressed after injuries occur
- Reliance on lagging indicators (claims, OSHA scores)
- Manual reporting and delayed response
- Limited visibility into near misses

Today's Technology-Driven Model

- Real-time data and early intervention
- Predictive insights identify risk before injury
- Increased near-miss visibility
- Technology-enabled coaching and prevention

Technology doesn't replace safety fundamentals - it makes them visible.

FROM REACTION TO PREDICTION

Historically, safety programs relied heavily on lagging indicators such as injuries that had already happened. Today's technology allows organizations to shift from reactive to predictive safety by identifying risk before someone gets hurt.

Modern tools such as digital incident reporting, analytics, wearables, AI-enabled video, and safety management software provide real-time insight into exposures that were once invisible. These tools don't replace strong fundamentals, but strengthen them by improving speed, consistency, and accountability.

MODERNIZING SAFETY: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS RESHAPING INJURING PREVENTION

CONTINUED

TECHNOLOGY THAT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

Brown highlighted several technologies already producing measurable safety results across trucking and logistics:

- **Wearables and smart PPE** monitor posture, movement, fatigue indicators, and environmental exposures such as heat and vibration—reducing strain injuries by as much as 30–50%. When positioned correctly, they protect workers without invading privacy.
- **AI video and computer vision** automatically identify unsafe behaviors and near misses, allowing supervisors to coach proactively rather than after an incident occurs.
- **Virtual reality training** places drivers in immersive scenarios, improving hazard recognition and reducing distracted-driving risk.
- **Safety management software** ties everything together—centralizing reporting, near-miss data, training, corrective actions, and return-to-work coordination across locations.

One case study shared during the session showed how a carrier *tripled near-miss reporting, reduced strain injuries by more than 40%, cut reporting lag time to just over two days, and lowered workers' compensation costs by nearly 20%* by improving visibility and early intervention.

BETTER OUTCOMES ON THE BACK END

Technology also plays a critical role after an injury occurs. Centralized return-to-work dashboards clarify restrictions, standardize modified-duty options, and keep Safety, HR, supervisors, and adjusters aligned. Faster communication reduces delays, improves claim defensibility, and helps injured employees return safely and quicker.

LOOKING AHEAD

Brown emphasized that technology doesn't replace culture: it enables it. When employees understand that these tools exist to protect them, not monitor them, adoption improves and safety engagement increases. From wearables and AI, to autonomous trucking and advanced analytics, the future of safety is already here. The organizations that succeed will be those that start with their greatest risks, pilot thoughtfully, maintain transparency, and use data to support (not punish) the workforce.



[Click here to discover our Risk Management team's Resources, including tools to help your company stay informed on safety advancements.](#)

NEED SAFETY TRAINING IDEAS?

Abby Greer May 7, 2026

Coming up with fresh, new content for monthly safety trainings can be tough. Our Risk Managers have provided an easy tool that can assist in safety training for our members... and helps to alleviate some of the stress that comes with scheduling these very important meetings. The *MONTHLY SAFETY TRAINING CALENDAR* provides topics for each month and includes a one-page handout and relevant videos from our archives.

MAY

"Safety" isn't just about making sure accidents don't happen: **Whole Body Safety** is just as important.



JUNE

Keeping **Safe Work Methods** in mind can help reduce the chances of accidents occurring.



JULY

Changes in **Speed & Driver Behavior** can prevent the majority of accidents. Stay alert, stay patient, and don't speed.



AUGUST

PPE & Equipment Safety is all about keeping your body protected from preventable accidents.



This resource is available exclusively to members of the ATA Comp Fund program and is also available in our [Online Portal](#) under the Resources tab. Contact your Risk Manager today to learn more about how you can incorporate this useful tool in your safety trainings!

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Abby Greer May 4, 2026

The "Safety Spotlight" feature of The Green Light shines the spotlight on safety professionals to gain insight into their background, and their thoughts and ideas on safety in our industry.

Meet Donald Grice, Safety Manager for Buddy Moore Trucking in Birmingham, Alabama. Donald started his career in Safety as a local driver who started leading orientation sessions because of his knack for relating to and understanding the needs of his fellow drivers...

How did you get started in Safety?

In 2008, I worked as a local driver for Hornady Transportation. During my downtime, I found myself interacting with the drivers who were attending orientation sessions. The Safety Manager at that time, Wolf Lindh, approached me and inquired if I would be interested in instructing orientation. I accepted the opportunity and led orientation sessions for a duration of 3 years before transitioning into a role in safety.



During this time, I developed a good rapport with the drivers and gained an understanding of their needs. This experience provided me with the chance to assist drivers with both personal and professional issues.

What do you view as the main duties of a Safety Director?

I have worked for several safety directors and, based on my experience, I believe that their main duty is to keep their Safety Managers well informed about all federal regulations. Their role also involves trusting their team to execute all policies and procedures effectively. Additionally, safety directors should have confidence in their team's ability to make sound decisions that will protect the company and the drivers.

Why is safety important to you?

Practicing safety measures is crucial for preventing accidents and injuries. By avoiding these incidents, it not only reduces stress but also fosters a positive environment and promotes peace of mind. Safety practices ensure both physical and emotional well-being. They play a vital role in saving lives on a day-to-day basis, benefiting both drivers and the public using roadways.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

What has been the most challenging task in your career as a Safety Manager?

One of the most challenging tasks I've encountered is *the need to encourage drivers to mentally and emotionally slow down while on the road*. It is important for drivers to be reminded to appreciate and find enjoyment in the profession they have chosen for their livelihood. In today's fast-paced world, it is easy for individuals to overlook the value of savoring the present moment.

How do you promote your company safety culture? How do you get employees to “buy in” or get involved?

It is important to not only correct risky behaviors but also to reward your drivers. It is crucial to remind them how important they are and ensure that their efforts are not overlooked. I have discovered that a word of encouragement and a heartfelt thank you for their hard work can have a significant impact on drivers. Many drivers often feel like they are simply another truck number, so it is vital for a safety manager to demonstrate a different perspective. Express appreciation for the sacrifices they make by being away from their families.

What advice do you wish you had received early in your safety career? What advice would you give someone who is starting out in their safety role?

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working with some exceptional Safety Directors. Their wealth of experience and the opportunity to collaborate with them greatly facilitated my transition into the role of safety manager. For individuals entering the field of safety, *I would recommend trying to comprehend the unique circumstances of each person you encounter*. Showing compassion is often essential, as not all instances of a driver's behavior stem from negligence or recklessness. Some behaviors may arise from personal challenges, and treating all drivers uniformly may result in the loss of valuable team members. Therefore, having a deep understanding of the individuals involved can greatly influence your decision-making process.

I would like to personally thank Chris Hornady, Christie Baker, Wolf Lindh, Debra Allred, and Adam Casey for their extraordinary mentorship. Without their leadership, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Of the ATA Comp Fund/AIR recommendations, which policy or procedure has been most effective for your company and why?

The recommendations cover all aspects, not just one. These policies bring benefits not only to companies but also to the well-being of their drivers. They are implemented with the goal of safeguarding drivers from enduring long-term injuries and to shield both parties from legal actions.

CLAIMS CORNER - ASK THE CLAIMS TEAM

Abby Greer, Suzy Baker & David Balades May 8, 2026

In this feature, we will highlight some of our most Frequently Asked Questions regarding the claim process. These will be answered by none other than ATA Comp Fund Director of Claims, Suzy Baker (with some help from her Claims, Risk Management, and Underwriting friends)! If you have any questions, please submit them via email [HERE](#).

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GEORGIA PANEL OF PHYSICIANS.

For employers with Georgia exposure, a properly maintained Panel of Physicians (PoP) plays a vital role in effective workers' compensation claim management.

Georgia Workers' Compensation statute requires employers to establish and prominently post a compliant Panel of Physicians so employees know where to seek authorized medical care following a work-related injury. When utilized correctly, the panel helps support timely treatment while allowing employers to retain direction over medical care.

Panel requirements in Georgia are specific and include defined composition standards as well as ongoing maintenance obligations. If a listed physician becomes unavailable or refuses to treat an injured employee, the panel must be updated as soon as possible. Failure to properly post or maintain a compliant panel will allow an injured employee to select their own treating physician, significantly impacting claim management and outcomes.

Regularly reviewing and verifying your Panel of Physicians helps maintain compliance and ensures smoother claim handling when injuries occur.

**PANEL OF PHYSICIANS
OFFICIAL NOTICE**

This business operates under the Georgia Workers' Compensation Law.

WORKERS MUST REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS IMMEDIATELY TO THE EMPLOYER BY ADVISING THE EMPLOYER PERSONALLY, AN AGENT, REPRESENTATIVE, BOSS, SUPERVISOR, OR FOREMAN.

If a worker is injured at work, the employer shall pay medical and rehabilitation expenses within the limits of the law. In some cases the employer will also pay a part of the worker's lost wages. Work injuries and occupational diseases should be reported in writing whenever possible. The worker may lose the right to receive compensation if an accident is not reported within 30 days (see O.C.G.A. § 34-9-80).

The employer will supply free of charge, upon request, a form for reporting accidents and will also furnish, free of charge, information about workers' compensation. The employer will also furnish to the employee, upon request, copies of board forms on file with the employer pertaining to an employee's claim.

A worker injured on the job must select a doctor from the list below. The minimum panel shall consist of at least six physicians, including an orthopedic surgeon with no more than two physicians from industrial clinics (see O.C.G.A. § 34-9-201). Further, this panel shall include one minority physician, whenever feasible (see Rule 201 for definition of minority physician). The Board may grant exceptions to the required size of the panel where it is demonstrated that more than four physicians are not reasonably accessible. One change to another doctor from the list may be made without permission. Further changes require the permission of the employer or the State Board of Workers' Compensation.

The insurance company providing coverage for this business under the Workers' Compensation Law is:

Insurer Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Insurer Email: _____

Instructions to injured worker: Review the following physician's contact information and select the provider with whom you would like to receive medical treatment:

Physician's Contact Information: Name, Address, Phone, and website listed below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Contact our Claim Management team to learn more about the Georgia Panel of Physicians requirement



WHAT'S HAPPENING



ATA'S TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

The Alabama Truck Driving Championship for 2026 is set! Join the Alabama Trucking Association on Friday, June 5th at the Pelham Civic Complex as they celebrate Alabama's truck drivers. Registration deadline is coming soon (May 15th) so make sure you get your company signed up [HERE](#).

ALABAMA TRUCKING 2026 CONVENTION

The Alabama Trucking Annual Convention is in the books and a time was had! Held on April 16-18 at Perdido Beach Resort, this year's event focused on legal reform, workforce development, safety, and the future of the trucking industry. The festivities were capped off on Saturday evening during the Chairman's dinner, where long-time ATA Comp Fund Board of Trustees member, Fenn Church, received the prestigious H. Chester Webb Award for Distinguished Service. For a full recap, click [HERE](#).



NATIONAL TECHNICIAN APPRECIATION WEEK 2026

American Trucking Associations (ATA), in partnership with its Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC), will host National Technician Appreciation Week (NTAW) June 14-20. This week recognizes the skilled technicians whose expertise keeps trucks maintained, repaired, and operating safely. Their commitment plays a critical role in keeping freight moving while protecting drivers and everyone who shares the road.

JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

Each year, the National Safety Council (NSC) dedicates the month of June as National Safety Month. Join the NSC as they highlight the leading causes of preventable injury and death. Members of the ATA Comp Fund are provided membership in the NSC at no additional cost. Take advantage of your membership - contact your Risk Manager today!



PROGRAM NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The ATA Comp Fund program is proud to welcome the following new members:

- **Columbus Tire Company** *Columbus, Georgia*
- **Huntsville Spring & Alignment** *Pinson, Alabama*

OUR TEAM CONTINUES TO GROW!

We're excited to welcome Ricardo Fuentes and Meagan Tanner to the ATA Comp Fund and Alliance Interstate Risk Service Team!

Ricardo joined our team in March as our Tennessee-based Risk Manager. With more than 25 years of experience in transportation safety, risk management, and DOT compliance, including service with the California Highway Patrol and the U.S. Air Force, Ricardo brings expertise to our member motor carriers in Tennessee and throughout the Southeast.

Meagan joined our team in April as an Underwriting Account Manager and brings more than eight years of insurance industry experience gained through roles with two large insurance carriers. Her strong background in client support, relationship management, and operational service makes her a valuable addition to the organizations and its members.



ATA COMP FUND 2025 SAFETY AWARDS

The Alabama Trucking Association Safety and Maintenance Management Council (SSMC) hosted the Annual Fleet Safety Awards banquet in March. The ATA Comp Fund was pleased to announce the winners of our program's Safety Awards that evening. Please join us in congratulating these members for a job well done!



C&C TRAILERS, INC.
Elba, Alabama

Allied Services Award
C&C Trailers



Medium Fleet Award
Scott's Excavating & Hauling



Safety Excellence Award
Doubleback Transportation



Small Fleet Award
S & D



Large Fleet Award
Perdido Trucking