

November 9, 2012

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WP-11-09-12

LAST WEEK TO MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS AT \$155 BEFORE NOVEMBER 15TH FOR THE WPMA CONVENTION

This is the last week to make your reservations at the Mirage hotel before the rates go up. Call before November 15, 2012 and ask for the WPMA rate of \$155 for single or double. Rates will go up after November 15, 2012. If you need to cancel your reservations, you can do so 48 hours prior to your arrival date and receive a full refund. Call The Mirage at 1-800-499-6311.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS MAINTAIN STATUS QUO

Hundreds of millions of dollars spent on federal campaigns has essentially resulted in maintaining the status quo. The extended election season resulted in important legislative matters being delayed. The pressure is now on Congress and the White House to possibly address some of the issues in a lame duck session. President Obama and the House and Senate leadership may be ready to negotiate now that the election is behind them and they know changes in January will not be significant enough to alter policy outcomes. PMAA will continue to look for opportunities to advance some of our legislative priorities during the lame duck session and may be asking members for grassroots support as opportunities arise.

PMAA JOINS NFIB AGAIN IN URGING CONGRESS TO ACT ON ESTATE TAX

PMAA continues to work with NFIB's Family Business Estate Tax Coalition (FBETC) to urge Congress to act on the expiring estate tax. Without action, as many as 1.2 million jobs may be lost when the estate tax increases on January 1, 2013.

PMAA seeks to maintain the current estate tax policy, with an exemption level of \$5 million and the maximum rate of 35 percent. It is also important that the exemption is indexed to inflation, provides for spousal transfer and includes stepped-up basis. To read the letter go to <http://pmaa.org/pdfs/FBETCLettertoCongressionalLeadership.pdf>.

MISSOURI MARKETERS STOP TOBACCO TAX INCREASE

On Election Day, efforts by the Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (MPCA) prevailed when Missouri voters rejected an outrageous and unfair tobacco tax increase, called Proposition B. Value cigarettes faced a tax increase upwards of 764 percent and major brand cigarettes faced a 429 percent increase. This is the third time a major tobacco tax increase was defeated in Missouri. Similar measures were defeated in 2002 and 2006. MPCA's efforts to defeat Proposition B included TV, radio, direct mail, social media, flyers, pump toppers, signs, and billboards.

DOE RELEASES ULSD FROM NORTHEAST RESERVE

Over the weekend President Obama declared that Hurricane Sandy has created a severe energy supply interruption and directed DOE to loan the Department of Defense ultra-low sulfur diesel from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.

Initially, the department will draw two million gallons of fuel from the 42 million gallon heating oil reserve. The two million gallons will come from the terminal in Groton, Connecticut, and DOE will leave open the possibility for further withdrawals.

The fuel will be distributed to state, local and federal responders in the New Jersey and New York area to be used for response and recovery efforts including fuel for emergency equipment and buildings, electrical generators, water pumps, trucks and other vehicles.

DOD plans to replenish the fuel to the reserve within 30 days.

FMCSA COORDINATING INTERSTATE FUEL DELIVERIES TO AREAS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE SANDY

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced Monday that it is leading an Interstate Petroleum Transport Team to ensure the fastest and most efficient movement of fuel to the region devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

The team will serve as a single point of contact for states, the trucking industry, and other agencies to assist in the removal of barriers to the quick delivery of fuel.

Since many of the necessary legal authorities reside at the state level, such as restrictions on truck size and weight and the authority to travel across state lines, the team will help coordinate state level activities within the region. The team has already launched a hotline number to help address any individual registration, certification, tax, or other barriers to the flow of fuel transportation to affected states.

"This team will help get fuel delivered to states and communities recovering from Hurricane Sandy even faster and more

efficiently than before, by streamlining multiple state regulations for trucks. The president has asked us to ensure fuel moves as quickly as possible, and we are answering that call, starting with a hotline number that will give trucks, states and others a one-stop solution to ensure the swift delivery of relief goods,” said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

Trucks bringing fuel to the impacted region must follow different state regulations. The team will coordinate information on a variety of waivers to ensure each state is on the same page on key regulatory issues that should be addressed to assist the flow of petroleum products to affected states, including:

- Driver Hours-of-Service
- Oversize and Overweight
- Low Sulfur Diesel Waivers
- Toll Waivers
- Vehicle Registration Waiver (International Registration Plan - IRP)
- Fuel Tax Waiver (International Fuel Tax Authority - IFTA)

For further information, DOT has set up a hotline at 1-800-832-5660.

SUPERSTORM SANDY IMPACTS PORTABLE GAS CAN SUPPLIES

Much of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast’s area hardware stores were sold out of portable fuel containers immediately following the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. In many cases, victims resorted to using makeshift containers to store gasoline – even using a five gallon cooler to store motor fuels. PMAA has been concerned that frivolous lawsuits filed against the portable gas can industry could result in shortages. This current shortage in the Northeast is a reminder of the important role gas cans play during emergencies.

Blitz USA, which has been manufacturing portable fuel containers since World War II, was forced into bankruptcy after being sued by consumers who poured gasoline on fires to rekindle the flame. In some cases, this caused the gasoline to ignite resulting in severe burns and even death. Trial lawyers saw a quick pay day and filed costly lawsuits against Blitz USA which manufactured approximately 75 percent of the portable fuel containers in the United States. Unfortunately, Blitz USA announced earlier this summer that the company couldn’t emerge from bankruptcy.

When a natural disaster hits, it’s imperative that adequate supplies are available to meet victims’ needs. PMAA supports legislative efforts to reduce liability for portable containers and is highlighting these concerns to lawmakers. Legislation introduced by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) would amend the “Children’s Gasoline Burn Prevention Act” (CGBPA) (Public Law 110-278) which would enable portable container parties to defend themselves against costly trial lawyer lawsuits.

FUEL RELIEF FUND – DOING THE RIGHT THING

The Fuel Relief Fund has been quietly responding to major disasters since Hurricane Katrina. The organization provided diesel to critical response operations in Haiti following the devastating earthquake. They passed out kerosene to Japanese survivors for home heating after the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami and distributed bags of coal to residents in Van, Turkey last November after the major earthquake in that region.

And now they are on-scene at the heart of the wreckage left by Superstorm Sandy. It started last Tuesday when the Board of Directors of the non-profit, charitable organization decided response was needed and appropriate. Quickly after that a loaded fuel tanker was dispatched from Pacific Tank Lines in Riverside California. Ted Honcharik, owner of Pacific Tank Lines and a founding member of the Fuel Relief Fund jumped on a plane to assess the situation in advance. It took three days for the tanker to get to the East Coast (drivers of hazardous materials trucks are restricted in their on-duty time) but once there action began quickly.

In three days the Fuel Relief Fund distributed gasoline and diesel in NJ and NY in five gallon increments to over 1700 needy individuals. They are also providing fuel to Red Cross, FEMA, National Guard and local emergency response vehicles. Bill Lavin, an Elizabeth, New Jersey fire captain assisting Fuel Relief said, “When you first told me you had a tanker full of “free” fuel to distribute to those in greatest need, I never fully understood the impact you would have. I couldn’t help but noticing, there was a line for water 20 people long, a line for food 30 people deep, and then looked at the line for fuel which stretched 250 to 300 strong. Validating that, without fuel, not much else can get accomplished.”

More help is arriving. Mansfield Oil, headquartered in Gainesville, Georgia is sending an additional tanker and volunteers to increase the relief efforts. However, a tanker of fuel costs about \$40,000 to load. Although over \$150,000 has been contributed thus far, more is needed. People, companies or organizations can contribute directly by going to the Fuel Relief Fund web site, <http://fuelrelieffund.org>.

WPMA 2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO SPONSORS February 19-21, 2013 • Mirage • Las Vegas, Nevada



2013 WESTERN PETROLEUM MARKETERS CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Start planning now to attend the 2013 WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. It will be held at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark your calendars for February 19-21, 2013.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2013

February 27, 2013 – Utah (UPMRA) Day on Capitol Hill - Utah Capitol Building - Salt Lake City, Utah

May 9-10, 2013 – NPM&CSA Big Dogs' Shootout – Red Rock Hotel & Casino – Las Vegas, Nevada

June 4-6, 2013 - Montana (MPMCSA) Convention - Holiday Inn Grand - Billings, Montana

June 17-20, 2013 - Washington (WOMA) Convention - Suncadia Lodge - Cle Elum, Washington

July 31-August 2, 2013 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Sun Valley Resort - Sun Valley, Idaho

August 27-28, 2013 – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, Albuquerque, NM

September 12-13, 2013 - Utah (UPMRA) Convention - Zermatt Resort - Midway, UT

Petro Pete: ***“If procrastination was an Olympic sport, I’d compete in it later.”***

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