

## **REGISTER NOW FOR WOMA'S VIRTUAL SPOTLIGHT SERIES**

Necessity is the mother of all invention! And without any face-to-face meetings, WOMA is rising up and offering connection with our membership! WOMA has developed a weekly series that will allow exhibitors, marketers, and major oil companies to come together and share products, services, and education about what we will face in the coming months. Join us every Wednesday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) for the 8 weeks (September 23-November 11) where we will be highlighting industry-related topics with a variety of reliable speakers! A second 8-week series will happen January - March with details to follow. If you are interested in owning your own Spotlight Week, please email Lea McCullough at [lea@waoil.org](mailto:lea@waoil.org) for weeks available! More information and registration click here.

(<https://www.wpma.com/washington/calendar-of-events/woma-spotlight-series-2020/registration>)

## **RELENTLESS HURRICANE SEASON CONTINUES, FMCSA ISSUES MULTI-STATE HOURS OF SERVICE WAIVER IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE DELTA**

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) granted an Hours of Service (HOS) waiver Wednesday night in response to Hurricane Delta for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas effective immediately and shall remain in effect for the duration of the emergency or until November 6, 2020, whichever is less.

Click [here](#) to read the notice. The waiver applies to all CDL drivers nationwide who deliver designated emergency supplies including fuel into the emergency areas covered by the declaration. FMCSA Regulations Exempted: Parts 390 through 399 of FMCSA regulations as limited by the waiver.

With 25 named storms so far, this is the second most active Atlantic hurricane season on record. PMAA will continue to work closely with the FMCSA and other federal agencies to ensure regulatory waivers important to petroleum marketers are in place throughout the duration of the storm related emergency.

PMAA Staff Contact: Mark. S. Morgan, Regulatory Counsel [markmorgan@verizon.net](mailto:markmorgan@verizon.net).

## **REMINDER: SHORT-HAUL DRIVER HOURS OF SERVICE AMENDMENTS NOW EFFECTIVE**

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) long awaited CDL hours of service (HOS) amendments for short-haul drivers are effective as of last Tuesday. The FMCSA issued an HOS final rule earlier this year that adopted several provisions requested by PMAA that provides regulatory relief for short haul drivers. The final rule adopted the following PMAA reforms:

- Expands the short haul driver exception from recording driver hours of service from 100 air-miles to 150 air-miles.
- Increases the maximum daily on duty time for short haul drivers from 12 hours to 14 hours.
- Extends the maximum daily 11 hour driving window by two hours during adverse weather conditions and allows drivers (in addition to dispatchers) to determine if the weather conditions exist to trigger the extension.

These reforms are important for motor fuels and heating fuels marketers because the majority of drivers they employ are short-haul drivers. The reforms provide short haul drivers additional on duty time and expanded operating range without losing their current exception from having to record daily hours of service. In addition, many long-haul drivers may now be reclassified as short-haul drivers so long as they stay within the newly expanded 150-mile air radius limitation. As a result, these former long-haul drivers are no longer required to use electronic on-board HOS recorders mandated by the FMCSA several years ago. Instead, their HOS can now be demonstrated the same way as all short-haul drivers - by timecards and/or other business records if requested by the DOT during an audit. This will reduce the recordkeeping burden on both motor and heating fuels marketers and provide them with more flexibility to schedule drivers while adding a significant number of on-duty hours per company across all drivers.

## **USDA TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN BIOFUELS**

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced this week that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$22 million out of the up to \$100 million in grants available to increase American ethanol and biodiesel sales. The grants are made available through the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIIP) and will provide the grants to gas stations, convenience stores and fuel distribution sites in 14 states. The states that will receive grant funding are California, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Utah and Wisconsin. The USDA projects that the \$22 million in HBIIIP investments will increase ethanol demand by nearly 150 million gallons annually.

Earlier this year, PMAA submitted comments to the USDA on the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program. Click [here](#) to view the comments.

### **BIDEN WANTS QUICK DEAL ON INFRASTRUCTURE BILL IF ELECTED**

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) announced this week that he had spoken with Presidential candidate Joe Biden's team about their interest in working on an infrastructure deal by February if Biden is elected. Chairman DeFazio, while speaking at ITS America conference on Wednesday, stated that the Biden team supports the \$494 billion infrastructure deal that the House passed in July. The bill, dubbed the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST) Act," was authored by DeFazio and includes several provisions that would affect energy marketers. Click [here](#) to view the details.

Due to political differences in the House and Senate infrastructure bills, along with the upcoming election, lawmakers recently agreed to a one-year extension of current transportation and infrastructure law. Regardless of who wins the election, there will be a battle over what the next infrastructure deal will look like.

### **PRESIDENT TRUMP WANTS AN AGREEMENT ON A STIMULUS PACKAGE**

As President Trump recovers from COVID-19, he has made it clear that he wants all sides to reach an agreement on a fourth and final economic relief bill. However, after the White House and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have spent weeks discussing a possible deal, there has been little progress and it is unknown if, and when, a deal will be reached.

Click [here](#) to view the story.

### **PMAA URGES STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO HELP RESOLVE IRS UV CLAIM BACKLOGS**

PMAA sent a letter recently asking the National Governors Association, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities and the National Association of Towns and Townships, to express their concern to the IRS Commissioner over the lengthy delays in processing ultimate vendor refund claims for the tax free sale of motor fuel to state and local government entities.

"Many small business petroleum marketers have not received payment from the IRS on ultimate vendor claims since April. Consequently, these marketers are in grave financial peril due to loss of essential operating capital which places severe cash flow problems on their businesses. If the IRS delays continue much longer, state and local governments may be required to pay the FET, thus placing on them the burden of making reimbursement claims and suffering the resultant financial and budgetary consequences," said PMAA President Rob Underwood.

Click [here](#) to read the letter.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER: FIND FIRE BEFORE FIRE FINDS YOU**

A pile of oily rags; an old power strip; a cigarette discarded in the wrong spot — fire risks can be anywhere. That's why it's important to be on the lookout for the hazards that can injure your employees and make your business go up in smoke. During 2020 Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10, review and revamp your business's fire-safety measures to help increase the chances that you'll find fire before fire finds you.

To read about Federated's recommended tips, please click [here](#). For additional information or to discuss further, please contact your [Federated](#) regional representative or PMAA's National Account Executive [Jon Medo](#) at 800.533.0472.

### **WPMA COVID-19 - CRITICAL REFERENCES FOR MEMBERS**

Please visit our web site for up-to-date information related to your business and the COVID-19 pandemic. You will find the link on our home page at [www.wpma.com](http://www.wpma.com).

### **MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES - YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE!**

WPMA welcomes industry-related articles for publication in the WPMA News magazine. All members and associate members of WPMA are eligible to submit items for publication. Articles will be included as space allows, and no self-promoting articles or editorials will be accepted. WPMA reserves the right to edit and make adaptation of such contributions to accommodate the magazine's space and style. Please submit articles or content to Jan Roothoff, WPMA Administration/IT Director at [janr@wpma.com](mailto:janr@wpma.com), or mail to Jan Roothoff, Western Petroleum Marketers Association, PO Box 571500, Murray, UT 84157-1500. Submissions for the Winter edition of WPMA News magazine are due before November 1<sup>st</sup>. Later submissions will be considered for the Spring issue.

# WPMA EXPO

February 16-18, 2021. The Mirage Las Vegas, Nevada.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

**POSTPONED** – Hawaii (HPMA) Golf Tournament – Oahu Country Club – Honolulu, HI

February 16-18, 2021 – WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel– Las Vegas, NV

## WPMA MEMBER SERVICES



Be sure to subscribe to all of our social channels for great tips, industry trends, and insider information about association activities and upcoming events!



**Petro Pete: “Worrying works! More than 90 percent of the things I worry about never happen.”**

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