



# WASHINGTON TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS FALL SAFETY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 8-10, 2025  
Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, WA

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Yakima, Washington  
#WTAFC25

THANK YOU TO OUR  
2025 FALL SAFETY CONFERENCE  
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# Agenda

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

### *Washington Health, Safety & Workers Compensation Workshop*

12:30 PM - 5:00 PM Registration & Information Table

1:00 PM - 1:10 PM Welcome & Introductions

1:10 PM - 2:10 PM

- Session I: L&I Voluntary Protection Program & STAR Certification
  - *Explore the structure, requirements, and benefits of the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries' Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and STAR certification. This session will cover eligibility criteria, application steps, and the continuous improvement expectations for employers striving to exceed basic compliance and achieve exemplary safety and health performance.*
    - Brett Campbell, Safety Consultant, Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

2:25 PM - 3:25 PM

- Session II: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): Recognizing and Supporting Employees in the Workplace
  - *This session offers an introductory overview of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a mental health condition that can affect employees across all industries. Attendees will learn how to recognize potential symptoms, understand the impact PTSD can have in the workplace, and explore practical steps employers can take to support affected employees through policy, communication, and access to resources.*
    - Katie Best, Director of Client Services, EAP, First Choice Health (Virtual)
    - Anthony L. Paul, Mental Health Supervisor Residential, Triumph Treatment Services

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## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

### *Washington Health, Safety & Workers Compensation Workshop*

3:40 PM - 5:00 PM

- Session III: Workers' Compensation Tabletop: From Incident to Prevention
  - *This interactive session will guide participants through workplace injury scenarios from initial response to claim resolution and prevention measures. Work collaboratively to identify practical steps and strategies that can improve outcomes and reduce future incidents.*
    - Facilitator: Teresa Pacelli, AIC, CIC, Regional Practice Leader – Workers' Compensation Claims Solutions, USI Insurance Services
    - Thomas Comstock, Partner- Transportation Insurance Broker, USI Insurance Services

5:00 PM

Dinner on your own



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# Agenda

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 7:15 AM             | Registration & Information Table  |
| 7:15 AM - 8:15 AM   | Networking Breakfast & Chat with Vendors  |
| 8:15 AM - 8:30 AM   | Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abigail Potter, Director of Safety &amp; Compliance, Washington Trucking Associations</li><li>• Theresa Gonzales, Emerging Regional Safety Manager, West Division, Walmart Transportation &amp; SMC Chair</li></ul>   |
| 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM   | <u>Keynote Speaker:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Honorable Patricia Byers, Mayor of Yakima</li></ul>   |
| 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM  | Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration<br>Regulatory Reform Efforts & Current Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>An inside look at FMCSA's deregulatory efforts to remove a number of outdated requirements and reduce compliance burdens on the trucking industry. The session will also cover current agency priorities and potential changes that could shape future operations.</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Jeff James, Washington Division Administrator, FMCSA (Tentative Due to Government Shutdown)</li><li>◦ Nathan Mehrens, Vice President Workforce Policy, American Trucking Associations (Virtual)</li><li>◦ Abigail S. Potter, Director of Safety &amp; Compliance, Washington Trucking Associations</li></ul></li></ul> |
| 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Best Practices for Ongoing & Remedial Driver Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Explore effective strategies for reinforcing safe driving behaviors, addressing performance issues, and tailoring training to individual needs. Learn how emerging AI tools can enhance training programs, keep skills sharp, and improve safety outcomes year-round.</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Kris Wylie, CDS, Training Developer &amp; Owner, Trainix</li></ul></li></ul>  |

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# Agenda

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Lunch & Chat with Vendors

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Bridging the Gap: Mentorship and Generational Shifts in Trucking

- *This panel explores how mentorship shapes careers, preserves industry knowledge, and prepares the next generation to lead. Panelists will share personal experiences, lessons learned, and practical approaches for fostering meaningful mentor-mentee relationships in trucking.*
  - Moderator: Theresa Gonzales, Emerging Regional Safety Manager-West Division, Walmart Transportation
  - Katrina Bosma, Director of Marketing, Fast Way Freight System, Inc.
  - Lori Gilbert, Assistant Vice President – Safety, Trans-System, Inc.
  - Walmart Transportation Driver

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM Cybersecurity & Ransomware Threat Prevention in Trucking

***Sponsored by Marsh McLennan Agency***

- *Understand the latest cyber threats facing the transportation industry and how to protect your systems, respond to incidents, and prepare staff for potential attacks. This session, led by a federal cybersecurity expert, will highlight common vulnerabilities and practical steps companies can take to strengthen their defenses.*
  - Daniel Brown, Inland Northwest Cybersecurity Advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (*Tentative Due to Government Shutdown*)
  - John Hansman, CEO-President, Truit

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## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM Refreshment Break & Chat with Vendors

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM Washington State Crash Trends & Traffic Safety Priorities

*Sponsored by Great West Casualty Company*

- *An overview of current crash trends in Washington and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission's key initiatives, including efforts to address distracted driving, speed, and younger drivers. Learn how these priorities are shaping statewide strategies to improve road safety.*
  - Staci Hoff, Ph.D., Research Director, Washington Traffic Safety Commission

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Safety Roundtable - Driving Change: Strategies for Engaging and Influencing Drivers

- *This roundtable discussion will explore practical approaches to achieving meaningful, lasting change with drivers—from improving safety behaviors to encouraging policy compliance and cultural buy-in. Attendees will share challenges, successes, and proven strategies for communication, motivation, and accountability that resonate with today's driving workforce.*
  - Moderator: Pat Swiger, Director of Continuous Improvement, Stryder Motorfreight USA

5:30 PM - 6:45 PM Opening Reception

6:45 PM Dinner on your own

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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM    Networking Breakfast & Chat with Vendors

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM    WTA Chairman's Welcome

- Mark Miller, Pasha Logistics & WTA Chairman
- Sheri Call, President & CEO, WTA

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM    Washington Government Stakeholder Panel  
*Sponsored by Fleetworthy*

- *This panel features leaders from WSP, DOL, and WSDOT sharing key updates on licensing, enforcement, and infrastructure. Gain insight into agency priorities, upcoming changes, and ways to collaborate to improve trucking safety and compliance statewide. Come with questions and leave with a clearer picture of what's ahead for Washington's trucking industry.*
  - Moderator: Ben Snyder Ben SinClair, MPH, CDS, Hermann Brothers Logging & Construction Inc.
  - Peter Reed, Assistant Administrator, CDL Program, Washington State Department of Licensing
  - Kerri Woehler, Assistant Secretary, Multimodal Development and Delivery, Washington State Department of Transportation
  - Dennis Bosman, Captain, Commercial Vehicle Division, Washington State Patrol
  - Rob Sharpe, Captain, Motor Carrier Safety Division, Washington State Patrol

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM    Securing the Load: Combating Cargo Theft and Bill of Lading Fraud

- *Cargo theft and bill of lading fraud are on the rise, putting freight and reputations at risk. This session covers recent trends and practical steps carriers can take to prevent theft, educate drivers, and protect their operations.*
  - Gregg Bergstrom, Safety Director, Lynden Transportation

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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

- 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM    Operations vs. Safety: Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Navigating Internal Management Communication
- *Balancing safety and operational goals can be challenging, especially when priorities compete. This session offers practical strategies for strengthening internal communication, building trust, and fostering collaboration between safety and operations teams. Hear real-world lessons and proven practices that help teams work together more effectively.*
    - Moderator: Jared Vetkos, Sr. Risk Control Representative, Great West Casualty Company
    - Nick Paradiso, Regional Safety Manager-Northwest, XPO Logistics
    - Tom Pineda, Safety Director, Fast Way Freight System, Inc.
    - Mark Miller, Vice President, Pasha Logistics
- 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM    Trucking in Olympia: 2025 Legislative Recap & Outlook for 2026
- *This lunch session will recap the 2025 legislative session and provide a forecast for 2026, including WTA's key priorities and understanding of the legislative landscape for next year's session.*
    - Sheri Call, President & CEO, Washington Trucking Associations
- 1:15 PM - 1:30 PM    Raffle & Closing Remarks
- Theresa Gonzales, Emerging Regional Safety Manager-West Division, Walmart Transportation

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# Get Involved!

## JOIN WTA'S RETRO PROGRAM

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**Lower your workers' compensation costs while improving safety and compliance with the Washington Trucking Associations' Retro Program. By pooling together with other motor carriers, you can qualify for refunds on premiums, access expert claims management support, and strengthen your company's safety culture.**

**Don't leave savings on the table—partner with WTA and put Retro to work for your business!**

**For more information on WTA's Retro Program or to see if your company qualifies to participate, email [wta@watrucking.org](mailto:wta@watrucking.org).**

## ATRI'S 2025 TOP INDUSTRY ISSUES SURVEY

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**DEADLINE:  
OCTOBER 10, 2025**

**The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) invites trucking stakeholders to take part in its 21st annual Top Industry Issues Survey. This survey ranks the industry's most pressing challenges and identifies strategies for addressing them, with results highlighting perspectives from both motor carriers and professional drivers.**



# 2025 - 2026 WTA UPCOMING EVENTS

## **TRUCKER OUTREACH FORUM (TOF)**

October 22, 2025 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Zoom & In-Person | Location: T-5 Administration Building  
3443 W Marginal Way SW, Seattle, WA 98106

## **2025 WTA INTERMODAL TRUCKING SUMMIT**

October 23, 2025

Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center | Seattle, WA

## **WASHINGTON WOMEN IN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

Fourth Thursday of each Month | 11:00 am - 12:00pm

## **SMC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Second Wednesday of each Month | 12:00 pm - 1:00pm

## **2025 WTA & WSP QUARTERLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

December 18, 2025 | 10:00 am

## **2026 TRUCKING DAY ON THE HILL**

January 2026 | Washington Capitol | Olympia, WA

## **2026 WASHINGTON TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

April 11, 2026 | Gesa Stadium | Pasco, WA

## **2026 WTA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & VENDOR SHOWCASE**

May 31- June 2, 2026 | Coeur d'Alene Resort | Coeur d'Alene, ID

## **2026 WTA DAY WITH THE WINNERS SAFETY AWARDS**

August 22, 2026 | Tacoma County & Golf Club | Lakewood, WA

## **2026 WTA FALL SAFETY CONFERENCE**

October 21-23, 2026 | Yakima Convention Center | Yakima, WA

**WTA Events | [watrucking.org](https://watrucking.org)**

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