



Today's Trucking

NewsFIRST
MONDAY

Monday March 14, 2016

Ontario police stats reveal most driver deaths in 8 years

TORONTO, ON — New Ontario Provincial Police data shows that 71 people died in collisions involving commercial transport trucks last year on OPP-patrolled roads, compared to 66 in 2014.

The 2015 numbers had the highest number of transport truck-related road deaths in the last eight years.

In all, 299 people were killed in 260 fatal collisions on OPP-patrolled roads last year.

While drugs, alcohol, speed and seatbelts are still major contributing factors to the province's driving deaths, carelessness from distracted drivers has topped the list for the third consecutive year.

Last year, 69 people died in road crashes in which driver distraction was a factor, compared to 61 speed-related, 51 seat belt-related and 45 alcohol and drug-related deaths, the latter being the lowest total over the last decade.

Each year for the past three years (2013-2015), OPP officers laid approximately 20,000 distracted driving charges throughout Ontario, more than double the number of impaired driving charges they laid over the same three-year period.

"If you are texting, talking on your cell phone or pre-occupied with other activities while behind the wheel, you are not driving safely," said OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes, in a statement. "It does not suffice to keep your eyes on the road. Driving involves sharing space with drivers, their passengers, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians and it is impossible to do so safely unless your eyes and mind are solely focused on driving," he added. [Full story...](#)

OTHER NEWS

Two Cummins workers dead in murder-suicide at Seymour center

SEYMOUR, IN — Cummins has announced that two employees at its Seymour Technical Center died in an apparent murder-suicide Thursday morning. According to local Fox59, the engine research facility workers had been in a small meeting when the shooting broke out. After a facility lockdown period, police identified the shooter as Qing Chen, 37 years old, of Seymour, IN, and the victim as Ward R. Edwards, 49, of Columbus, IN. Both were men. Cummins spokesperson Jon Mills told Indiana media sources that the slain manager, Edwards, had supervised Chen, pictured right. A 9mm Glock handgun was found at the scene. [More...](#)

VersaCold to acquire Coastal Pacific Xpress

VANCOUVER, BC — VersaCold Logistics Services has announced plans to acquire Coastal Pacific Xpress (CPX), BC's largest refrigerated carrier for shipping perishable products in North America. [More...](#)

Ninth safety win for Bison as company recognized by Forbes

WINNIPEG, MB. — Bison Transport is busy winning left and right. While the Winnipeg company was taking home the large carrier safety award in Las Vegas for the sixth year in a row, back in Canada it was being heralded by Forbes as one of Canada's best employers. [More...](#)

CTA event rallies leaders for made-in-Canada GHG solutions

TORONTO, ON — The Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) recently joined government officials, equipment suppliers and environmentalists in Toronto to discuss how rules governing carbon emissions in the trucking industry could potentially affect truck engine, tractor and trailer performance. CTA senior VP Stephen Laskowski noted that previous environmental rules have led to reliability issues for trucking equipment, leaving truck drivers and fleet owners to deal with the fallout alone. “That can’t happen again,” Laskowski states on the CTA’s website. Stephen Laskowski goes on to note that equipment released under new emission guidelines needs to be fully tested and able to withstand harsher Canadian conditions without degradation. [More...](#)

BC makes traffic cam data public to inspire congestion fix

VICTORIA, BC — British Columbia is opening up its traffic webcam data to the public in the hope that it could be used by software developers to create new tools and services to make driving in B.C. safer and more convenient. [More...](#)

Minnesota firm to launch electric truck fleet late 2016

MELBOURNE, FL — Following a new battery deal, Minnesota’s Freedom Trucking company says it’s ready to roll with a fully electric interstate truck propulsion system that will allow its trucks to travel more than 400 miles later this year. [More...](#)

Trimac plans to pay back drivers' licence training costs

HOUSTON, TX — Trimac Transportation has developed a program to reimburse money spent on commercial driver’s licence training at approved schools. [More...](#)

Amazon fights ground shipping costs by leasing 20 planes

SEATTLE, WA — After spending more than \$11.5 billion on ground shipping for 2015, online commerce giant Amazon is taking to the air after leasing 20 Boeing 747 freighter planes for its U.S. deliveries. [More...](#)

Quebec's Manac makes event calendar for 50th anniversary

SAINT-GEORGES, QC — During its first year of operation, Manac turned out 11 semi-trailers. Fifty years later, Manac employs over 1,200 people, has four manufacturing plants in Canada and the U.S., and distributes its products across North America. [More...](#)

Trucking associations prepping for millennial hires

TORONTO, ON — With baby boomers beginning to retire, and the average truck driver now approaching age 50, the workforce is becoming dominated by younger workers, few of whom see trucking as a viable career path on their radar. [More...](#)

PICK: NYT op-ed tackles modern truck drivers vs. regulation

NEW YORK — It might seem like a good time to be a long-haul trucker: More than ever, the American economy relies on hundreds of thousands of 18-wheelers to move goods across the country. But the industry is in crisis, with drivers leaving in droves because of low pay and poor working conditions. A big part of the problem is that when it comes to long-haul trucking, the government’s focus has been almost entirely on road safety. That’s not a misplaced concern; highway accidents involving semis kill about 5,000 people per year. But it overlooks a critical concern: the well-being of the drivers themselves. [More...](#)

Watch a few of Penske's latest 'false expert' video ads

READING, PA — Truck leasing company Penske is launching a new commercial ad campaign during U.S. basketball’s March Madness to show what happens when people ask questions about basketball to non-experts, including psychics, philosophers and relatives. [More...](#)

Trans Plus software firm names new US sales, marketing lead

GUELPH, ON — Less than a month after hiring a new general manager, Trans Plus Systems has named Vince Marino as the Canadian software company’s new U.S. director of marketing and sales. [More...](#)

THE MAGAZINE

March: In Like A Lion!

Read the March issue of Today's Trucking to see who's King of the Trucking Jungle. March also carries the annual Top 100 For-Hire-Carriers feature and, as usual, the survey's full of surprises. The magazine also teems with terrific equipment and business features; your favorite columnists, plus the ever-popular "Can't Get There From Here" contest. (Believe us, this month's might be one of the easiest.) Click here to read more.

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