

# AAT NEWS

August 2019



## Back To School--Watch for Buses!

It is almost time for schools to be back in session. There are approximately 480,000 school buses that transport 26 million students each day in the United States. That is a half a million commercial vehicles added to our roadways daily. Whether you are driving in Minnesota, California or any other state, the need to be safe near schools is the same. Truck routes often pass right by school zones—slow down. These areas often have electronic monitoring devices that will tell you how fast you are going. Watch for the buses—they travel from rural roads to city streets to expressways with many stops and slow downs, watch for the flashing lights. **Never pass a stopped bus.**

## NIGHT DRIVING

Driving at night is challenging because visibility, glare and fatigue affect drivers more. Visual acuity is reduced and your eyes are tired and have a harder time adjusting to the darkness. The depth perception, ability to distinguish color and peripheral vision are worse in low light conditions.

Other vehicle's lights temporarily blind you, therefore it's always a good idea to avoid looking directly into oncoming traffic and instead look towards your right side. Fatigue is one of the biggest contributors of accidents and more so at night.

Some simple tips for driving at night:

- ◆ Make sure your windshield and mirrors are clean.
- ◆ Watch your speed and following distance. At night you need more time to react to hazards.
- ◆ Slow down on curves and ramps even more so at night, since the headlights will head straight reducing your vision.

AAT recommends driving from 7am-10pm Monday –Friday and 8am-8pm on Saturday and Sunday. (Driver's book page 22)

This also ties into when the emergency/breakdown support line is available to drivers.

## This N That

**Please** do not wear open toes shoes when picking up or delivering. Many facilities have safety policies requiring closed toed shoes. **AAT Apparel**—must be worn. Please remember to wear a shirt, hat or jacket. This is a contract requirement on clients property at pickup and delivery.

**WEX CARDS**...we have been experiencing a number of cards being shut off by WEX due to what they perceive to be fraud. If a problem arises, please contact your dispatcher.

**RENTAL CAR REMINDERS** Return cars within the time frame specified. There are additional charges when returned late. Also, fill the gas tank to the level it was when checked out. The rental car agencies can charge up to \$10.00 a gallon. These additional fees will not be covered by AAT.

## MN Hands- Free Law Effective August 1, 2019

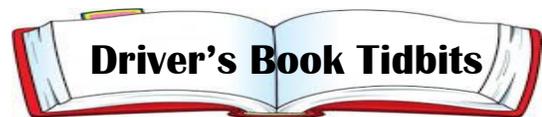
**NOTE:** AAT's policy is stated below in the Driver's Book section.

The new law allows a driver to use their cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music and get directions, **BUT ONLY BY VOICE COMMANDS** or single touch activation without holding the phone.

Hand-held phone use is only allowed to obtain emergency assistance, if there is a threat to life and safety or when in an authorized emergency vehicle while performing official duties.

The penalties....first ticket is \$50 plus court fees. The second and later tickets are \$275 plus court fees.

For more information visit the MN Office of Traffic Safety website <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/handsfree/Pages/default.aspx>



### AAT Mobile Phone Device Policy.....Page 9

Paragraph 7: In addition to FMCSR 392.80 and 392.82, AAT's company policy states that AAT drivers are prohibited and **NEVER ALLOWED** to use hand-held mobile telephone, Bluetooth and/or any other type of mobile device while driving. This includes talk, text, GPS, Internet and/or any other function until they are parked in a safe and legal location. Please review this section carefully.

### Questions on Driver Settlements.....Page 51 & 52

The settlement calendar on page 52 outlines when each settlement period ends—**Sunday at Midnight**. Paperwork needs to be turned in **no later than the following Monday by noon**.

## TRIANGLES

Triangles are required to be provided by each driver on every trip. *Whenever a commercial motor vehicle is stopped upon the traveled portion or the shoulder of a highway for any cause other than necessary traffic stops, the driver shall, as soon as possible, but in any event within 10 minutes place the warning devices in the required manner.* Please refer to page 8 in the driver's book if you have any questions on the required placement of triangles.



## Overnight Parking

All cars in our lot for overnight parking must be parked in the back lot. Cars cannot be parked along the tree line or by shuttle vans overnight. In the rare event that the back lot is full, drivers may park by the trees.

Hope you are all enjoying your summer!

Debra, Scott, DJ, Jackie, Penney,

Donna, Kara & Patti

