

GRASS ROOTS REPORT



FALL 2017

The Official Newsletter of the ND Township Officers Association

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Notice of the 51st Annual Meeting of NDTOA

By Larry Syverson, Executive Secretary

The 51st Annual Convention of the North Dakota Township Officers Association will be held December 4th and 5th, 2017 at the Ramada Inn, 1400 East Interchange Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Convention registration is \$50 per person at the door, \$40 if pre-registered and paid by November 19, 2017. Mail the completed registration form found on page 7 to: Barb Knutson, 2600 236th St NE, McKenzie, ND 58572.

This also covers the cost of the Monday luncheon and evening banquet. It should be noted these are not just meals but are part of the program with informative speakers.

Hotel reservations can be made at 701-258-7000. Call by November 19th and tell them you are with ND Township Officers Association to get the convention rate.

All township officers are urged to attend. This is your meeting! Costs such as convention registration, hotel charges and mileage are allowable township expenses.

Monday morning registration will begin at 7:30 with the session beginning at 8:30 a.m. The convention

will break at noon for the provided awards luncheon. The Grassroots Leadership Award will be presented to this year's selected Outstanding Township Officer.

The convention will resume at 1:00 p.m. with the annual business meeting. Reports of finances and association activities will be given at that time.

There will be vote on a constitutional amendment, elections of three directors, the president, and vice president will also be held (*see list in separate section*).

While all township officers are welcome to participate at the meeting, the by-laws limit each dues-paid county to two votes.

After the adjournment of the business meeting at 5:00 p.m. there will be a "no-host" social (cash bar).

The evening banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. At that time the Legislator of the Year Award will be presented followed by the banquet speakers.

Tuesday morning registration will begin at 7:30 with the session beginning at 8:30. a.m. There will be presentations by several speakers to fill the morning.

The 51st Annual Convention of the North Dakota Township Officers

Association will adjourn by 12 Noon on Tuesday December 5, 2017.

MONDAY MORNING SPEAKERS

We are inviting several top state officials, when they are able to confirm that they have time in their busy schedules.

Check website: www.ndtoa.com for a more detailed program.

Governor Doug Burgum

Wayne Stenehjem
ND Attorney General

Tom Sorel, The new Director of the ND Department of Transportation

Al Jaeger, ND Secretary of State

MONDAY EVENING SPEAKERS:

President Roger Olafson and Larry Syverson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, will present this year's Legislator of the Year Award.

Cal Klewin

Theodore Roosevelt Expressway
Developments and importance of the Ports to Plains Alliance and the US Highway 85 Corridor.

(Continued on page 11)

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President's Comments



Hello everyone,

We have had some cool weather for quite some time this fall, but relatively dry conditions have allowed harvest to come along nicely. Quite a change from 2016!

I would like to thank the townships that have paid membership dues to NDTOA, possibly the first time ever for some. Support from all townships is critical to the success of the mission of NDTOA. It is partially due to this support that NDTOA has been financially strong for several years.

When I became President, my "pet project" was to try get counties to pay membership dues to NDTOA for their unorganized townships.

This has had mild success with over \$20,000.00 in dues raised the past three years from counties that hadn't paid these membership dues previously. There are still many more that I would like to see "help pull the load".

A third reason for the strong financial position is Larry Syverson's efforts to keep the legislative expenses in check. Legislative session years have always seen an increase in expenses over non-legislative session years.

As you will notice elsewhere in this issue, the convention committee has been busy planning for another NDTOA Annual Meeting.

It is important to see a good turnout at these conventions to reward the efforts of those planning the event. We have had a strong lineup of speakers the past few years with much pertinent information presented to help township officers do a better job.

A reminder to township supervisors and road overseers, be vigilant of tall crops creating travel hazards at intersections. If the crop is within the township right of way, 33' each side of the section line, it should be removed.

If the crop off the right of way still creates a hazard then you may need to put up yield signs at the intersection.

Let's do our jobs diligently and keep our form of Grassroots Government alive and well!

SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS TO THE NDTOA ANNUAL MEETING

If your county has an issue that you feel should be addressed by NDTOA, bring it to the annual meeting as a written resolution.

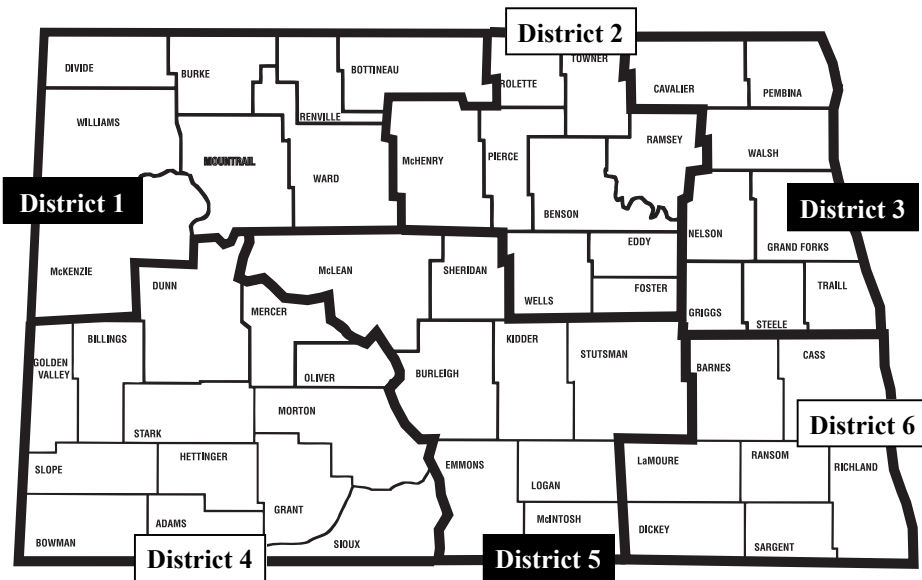
All written resolutions should be sent to the NDTOA office: Larry Syverson, 465 150th AVE NE, Mayville ND 58257 or given to your District Director no later than Friday, Nov. 24, 2017.

They may also be emailed to the office: larry@ndtoa.com no later than Friday, Dec. 1st.

The Resolutions Committee will meet on Sunday evening, December 3, 2017, after the close of the Board of Directors meeting.

Steve Ginsbach, 16290 91st Street SE, Hankinson, ND is the Committee Chairman.

NDTOA Elections to be Held



District Directorships to be filled this annual meeting are as follows:

DISTRICT 1 consists of the following counties: Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Ward and Williams. *Directorship has been held by Thomas Wheeler, Ray, ND*

DISTRICT 3 consists of the following counties: Cavalier, Grand Forks, Griggs, Pembina, Nelson, Steele, Traill, and Walsh. *Directorship has been held by Al Bekkerus, Grand Forks, ND.*

DISTRICT 5 consists of the following counties: Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, Logan, McIntosh, McLean, Sheridan, and Stutsman. *Directorship has been held by Barb Knutson, McKenzie, ND.*

The office of President is open for nominations. Mr. Olafson has served his 2nd two-year term and is not eligible because the Constitution limits two terms as it is currently written. *See article below.*

Vice President Lee Brandvold is able to serve for a second two-year term if re-elected.

A candidate is to be an officer or director of NDTOA must be a currently elected township officer. Anyone interested in serving on the NDTOA board of Directors for those districts or as an officer should contact a nominating committee member: District 2 Director Mark Shipley, District 4 Director Leon Monke, or District 6 Director Steve Ginsbach.



WORKING FOR YOU!

Proposed Constitution Change

The NDTOA Board of Directors has recommended the following change to Article 4 of the Constitution. Delete the phrase: “, not to exceed two consecutive terms.”

Article IV

The membership of the Board of Directors shall consist of those members as outlined in the By-Laws of the Association. There shall be elected from the membership of the association during annual meetings held in odd numbered years a president and vice-president who shall hold office for a term of two years, ~~not to exceed two consecutive terms~~. At the time of the election, the president and vice-president must be currently holding an elected township office. The Board of Directors shall meet annually in December and at other special meetings as called by the president or any five members of the Board of Directors.

This change will be voted on at the Monday afternoon business meeting of the convention on December 4, 2017. If passed, the change will allow the serving President and Vice President to stand for re-election beyond a second term and leaves the decision up to the voting membership if they should continue in office for another term.

The Country Lawyer

by Thomas R. Moe, Attorney-at-Law



Greetings!

Fall is here and snowflakes are just around the corner. I was listening to the weatherman the other night and he was showing some pictures of the solar eclipse that occurred earlier this summer.

It got me to wondering why it is that science can predict an eclipse of the sun many years in advance, but cannot accurately predict the weather over the next weekend? But then I guess that weathermen are never wrong—it's the weather that's wrong!

Speaking of around the corner, the state convention of NDTOA is coming up fast. Township officers should gather in Bismarck the first couple of days in December for the annual meeting.

The agenda and information is listed elsewhere in the newsletter. We're getting the notice out a little earlier this year as there are some proposed Constitutional by-law changes which are on the docket.

That information is also included in this issue. Attending the state convention by officers is a bona-fide expense for reimbursement by the attendee's township.

All are encouraged to attend, and I recall visiting with several of you during the course of this last year who promised me they would meet me in Bismarck for the convention—so I will hold you to your promise!

Seriously, it is a great time to meet and greet old friends, make new ones, and carry out the important business of the one true form of grassroots government—our townships.

Try to get a road and sign survey done yet this Fall, before the snow flies. If feasible, try to check out your signs in the evening and see if they pass the 'headlight' test.

Many signs have lost the level of reflectivity needed to be effective, and probably should be replaced. Most of the older signs are also damaged beyond repair, too, so get them replaced as well.

The harvest seems to have rolled along without too much precipitation, so I haven't seen too much road damage because of mud, ruts, and the other issues that occur with wet and mushy roadbeds.

However, if there has been some damage in your township, be sure and snap a few pictures, and perhaps the offending operator will assist the township in correcting the problem.

I've had several calls regarding tile drainage issues and the problems townships are having with operators who haven't contacted them prior to the work be done.

New legislation from the last session made quite a few changes to the local County water Board's involvement with tiling, but the requirement that an operator get permission from the township (or the county along county highways) before outletting drain water into the road ditch still is in effect.

Township officers need to be extremely vigilant about this, and require the tile drainer to visit with the road overseer prior to completing the work.

In addition, many townships have adopted zoning ordinance set-back rules, which would require pumps,

pipes, and other tile apparatus to be at least 50 feet back from the roadway.

And again, even though the Water board's involvement may be diminished, it's still a good idea to develop and maintain a good working relationship with that agency.

As I've noted before, 'it's the Water Board's water, but it's the township's ditch', so both the township, the water board, and the operator need to work together.

Here's hoping the rest of the harvest season is a safe one, and I plan on seeing many more of you at the state convention in Bismarck

Also on your upcoming calendar should be attendance at our township officer workshops next February. More on that soon! Following are several questions [received in the office lately. TRM

QUESTION: We had a family wedding picnic at our farm this summer, and almost all of the residents of township were there, including all three supervisors, the clerk and the treasurer—who are either relatives or are family friends. One of the residents of the township—who was not invited—complained that we held an illegal township meeting at the picnic. Was he correct?

ANSWER: It takes all kinds, doesn't it!! Seriously, I'm assuming you did indeed not carry out any township business at the picnic. If you did, then he probably is correct.

Continued on next page

Interestingly, the open meetings laws specifically exempt ‘social gatherings’ of officers from the rules, but once again, assuming no business is carried out.

QUESTION: We maintain a road which is the boundary between us and the adjacent township. (We take three miles and the other township does the other three).

One of landowners didn’t mow his ditches so we wanted to put our mowing expenses on his taxes, but that land is on the other side of the road in the adjacent township, but it is along the road which our township maintains according to the agreement we have with the neighboring township.

Now the landowner says we don’t have the authority to put the costs on his taxes, because the land is not in our township. Can we do this?

ANSWER: Probably, as long as the county auditor accepts the levy from you, the adjacent township. If not, then simply ask your neighboring township to authorize the levy. You may have to re-visit your maintenance sharing agreement and include the levy authorization verbiage in your document.

QUESTION: We have a shared north/south boundary section line with the adjacent township. It is just a prairie trail.

One of the ranchers placed his fence right down the middle of the section line. We want it placed back 33 feet to the west edge of the right of way, but our neighboring township on the west side doesn’t care and won’t force him to move it. Can we do so?

ANSWER: Boundary line issues can be complex—see above question, too. You probably have the right to remove the fence, as the Century

Code is quite clear. *See Section 24-06-30; Removal of Fences.*

Generally, any obstructions in the right of way, including fences, are the responsibility of the township for enforcing removal. You may have to educate your neighboring township officers about their responsibility.

I’m assuming you anticipate more traffic or use of the prairie trail, and even though it probably is not a “road”, both townships still are responsible for obstruction clearance. Perhaps the County sheriff can give you a hand with the “education” after showing him a copy of the law.

QUESTION: We have a water controversy involving a culvert placement and two of the supervisors are the landowners involved, and are not getting along. I’m the third supervisor. Can I make the decision?

ANSWER: Ouch! Probably, although technically the other two would have to abstain under Robert’s Rules. (I’m assuming you would do this at a supervisor’s meeting, but the chances of getting both of them there might be asking too much?)

Because it is a culvert issue, you should seek a recommendation from the water board. *See Section 24-06-34; Notice to Water Resource District.* Even though the water board doesn’t necessarily have jurisdiction over road culverts, their recommendation regarding sizing and placement would provide you with their advice about the issue—which you could use to assist you in making the decision.

QUESTION: We want to hold a special meeting of the township this fall before the snowbirds leave for

the winter. In the newspaper notice, can we just list the purpose of the meeting as “General Township Business”?

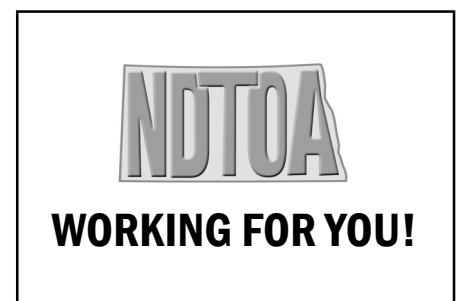
ANSWER: Probably not. You are right that a special meeting of the township does indeed require special newspaper notice—different from the newspaper advertisement required for the annual March meeting. *See Section 58-04-04; What Notice of Special Meeting must specify.*

Even though that section says the purpose of the meeting must be “specified”, you are right in that it doesn’t necessarily say the purpose couldn’t be “general business” as you suggest.

But I think the intent of the law would dictate that a special meeting would be for only one or two items—and only for those one or two items.

You should put yourself in the shoes of a resident—they know (or should know) that any item is fair game to be discussed at the March annual meeting.

But a special meeting of the township is an extraordinary event, and the resident would have the right to know what exactly will be discussed at that meeting, and shouldn’t have to expect that the normal March agenda items, e.g. elections, budgets, taxes, etc. would somehow be taken care of at your special meeting.



Treasurer's Report by Barb Knutson

REMINDERS:

Thanks for all the help with changes on mailing list. It's great when you share your cell phone numbers and very helpful.

Please be sure to share your information with your auditors. Send them information on officers every year even if they have been there for a while.

End of physical year, there are still a few dues not paid for 2017. Thanks to those that have sent them in on time.

It's not too late to send in a nomination for GrassRoots Leader-

ship Award. I know there are very deserving folks out there. We would love having more to choose from.



Who knows?

Maybe your nomination will be recognized at the annual meeting in December.

Annual Meeting: December 4 & 5, 2017, Bismarck Ramada. Look for specifics elsewhere in this letter.

Thanks for all the work you do in your townships. It is important! Hope to see many of you at the meeting in Bismarck.

TWO WAYS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.ndtoa.com



VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

NDTOA 2017 51st Annual Meeting Registration Form December 4 and 5, 2017 Ramada, Bismarck ND

Name(s) and Title _____

City, State, Zip _____

Township _____ County _____

Total No. Attending ____ @ \$40 per person PRE-REGISTRATION (\$50 at the door)
____ @ \$10 spouse attending the Monday Night Banquet Total Amount Enclosed
____ @ \$ 7 spouse attending the Monday Luncheon \$ _____

Please complete and send this registration form, along with your check payable to NDTOA by **November 19, 2017** to Barb Knutson, 2600 236th St NE, McKenzie, ND 58572.

NOTE: Townships may pay from their general fund for officer's registration fees and expenses.

North Dakota Township Officers Grassroots Government Leadership Award

To recognize the leadership, creativity, and dedication of township officials, the NDTOA has established a leadership award to pay tribute every year to an individual whose community service exhibits the highest standard of dedication, ability and service.

ELIGIBILITY

The award will be presented to an individual, locally elected official, currently in office. It will recognize him or her for their outstanding contributions on a sustained basis or from a single performance.

Nominees should have responsibility for accomplishing or causing to be accomplished significant programs or projects within their area of responsibility, to the ultimate benefit of the general public.

Examples of such professional accomplishments include local government cost-cutting, coordination of a major local volunteer effort, and promoting townships at the national level, establishing new local services or programs, and success in securing public or private funding for local projects.

SELECTING CRITERIA

Nomination should include specific reference to the following features of the nominee's accomplishments as applicable:

Complexity of the problem(s) addressed.

Measurable improvements resulting from nominee's accomplishments.

Use of original, innovative or creative approaches and solutions in difficult situations.

Long-term or lasting benefit of the nominee's accomplishments.

NOMINATING PROCEDURE

Nominations may be submitted by member townships and counties of the NDTOA. A nomination form is below for your convenience. Just complete and mail. **Nominations must be received by November 15th.**

North Dakota Township Officers Grassroots Government Leadership Award

NOMINATION FORM

Name, title, local government, address and phone number of NOMINEE:

Your name, address and phone number: _____

Please provide name, address, day phone, title and affiliation of two objective references that can evaluate the nominee's accomplishments:

Please attach a brief biography of the nominee summarizing positions held, civic and professional affiliations, and other relevant personal data. (*Not to exceed two typewritten double-spaced pages.*) Also attach a summary of the major accomplishments for which the local official is being nominated, keeping in mind the examples and criteria listed above. (*Not to exceed four type-written double-spaced pages.*) The award will be presented at the County Association Annual Meeting and the NDTOA Annual Meeting in December.

Mail the completed form to: NDTOA, 465-150th Ave NE, Mayville ND 58257-9011

For questions or for copies of this form please phone 701-430-1735 or email larry.ndtoa@gmail.com.

Safe Seating submitted by NDIRF

Over the years, the NDIRF has received a number of personal injury claims alleging defects in bleacher seating owned by members, such as seating at auditoriums, arenas, gymnasiums, rodeo grounds, fairs and outdoor fields.

The problems have ranged from wobbly bleachers, slippery surfaces and lack of safety rails to improper construction, outdated equipment and general disrepair.

This article discusses one of these claims to illustrate concerns common to local government entities that own and maintain bleacher-type seating for public use.

The plaintiff, a middle-aged man, was attending a high school basketball game.

At the conclusion of the contest he began to walk down the bleachers, stepping from one seating surface to the next to greet some friends.

When the man turned around to continue his descent, he lost his balance and began falling. Unfortunately, the very bottom bleacher had a hole in it.

As the plaintiff attempted to regain his balance by stepping on the bottom seat, his leg fell into the hole.

The result was a severely twisted knee that required significant surgery and physical therapy.

The plaintiff admitted he had initially lost control as he was descending, but contended he would not have been injured had there not been a large hole in the bleacher seat.

In support of his claim, the plaintiff provided a video obtained from

a parent who had been recording the game. The video recording showed the plaintiff lying on the gym floor and a large hole in the bottom bleacher seat.

Our NDIRF member admitted knowledge of the seat defect and that it had not gotten around to repairing the bleacher. It was an unsafe condition and the video was clear evidence of potential liability on the part of the school district.

On the other hand, the NDIRF argued that the plaintiff was at least partially at fault for his accident and his injuries.

Most importantly, the plaintiff failed to use the designated walkway (which was located only 15 feet away) in descending the bleachers and failed to watch where he was stepping prior to losing his balance.

The respective parties were far apart in their evaluation of damages in this claim and both sides agreed to mediate the dispute.

Mediation allows the parties to sit face-to-face across a table and make their arguments outside a courtroom setting.

The process of actually hearing and seeing a plaintiff argue his or her case for liability and damages is of real value in judging credibility.

In this case, the plaintiff and his spouse presented a very good appearance and could articulate how the injury had impacted their lives.

In short, they would have been believable to a jury. In view of the problems each side had with the case, both were motivated to negotiate and a mutually acceptable settlement was finally reached.

The “moral of the story” is that it highlights the need for NDIRF members to maintain their premises and equipment in good working order.

The NDIRF would have been far less inclined to enter into settlement if the bleachers had been in proper repair.

Minimal cost of maintenance in this situation would have avoided the much higher expense incurred to resolve this claim.

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New Oversize Truck Permitting Law Affects Townships

A new law aimed at improving safety and compliance with regulations affecting the movement of oversize trucks on local roads *took effect August 1* in North Dakota. The new law contains several provisions that have a direct effect on North Dakota townships and the roads under their control.

The most significant change requires townships to participate in a uniform truck permitting system, if their county is participating in the system.

Currently, this language is only relevant in the 18 oil-producing counties, plus Emmons County, which are all members of **LoadPass Permits**, the oversize truck permitting system operated by the Western Dakota Energy Association (WDEA).

However, other townships outside North Dakota's oil-producing region could soon be affected because WDEA is in the process of offering membership in **LoadPass Permits** to non-oil-producing counties.

The new law requiring townships to participate if their county is a participant was part of House Bill 1320. In addition to the participation requirement, the new law also prohibits any city, county, or township in a uniform permit system from imposing additional fees for use of their roads beyond the fees established under the permit system.

These law changes were largely driven by the oil industry, which has been justifiably concerned about inconsistencies in the permitting process. Oil companies told North Dakota legislators they frequently have difficulty reaching a township

official to act on a permit request in a timely manner.

They also shared stories about what they felt were excessive fees imposed by township governments for use of their roads. The legislature enacted HB 1320 to remedy these industry concerns, and all road permitting entities need to respond.

WDEA views the legislature's action as a directive to improve the way heavy truck traffic is managed. The association also believes it is the legislature's desire to see a permitting system for county, city and township roads offered statewide.

WDEA has responded by initiating plans to enhance the current **LoadPass Permits** system, and to offer it to local governments outside the oil-producing region.

WDEA leadership believes it is essential that local governments retain the ability to control traffic on their road system. One can imagine that state control of the permitting process would result in more heavy trucks being diverted from state highways onto local roads. That is why WDEA believes it is essential that the industry complaints are addressed.

WDEA's **LoadPass Permits** system is highly automated. It is a 100% on-line system – no paper permits are issued. Plans to incorporate a routable map will improve it even further.

Automation also simplified the payment process for the oilfield trucking industry. Transactions occur online, and so do payments to local governments. Permit fee revenue is automatically deposited into local bank accounts.

NDTOA members can learn much more about **LoadPass Permits** at the annual conference December 4-5, 2017 in Bismarck.

Representatives of WDEA will be on hand to explain the system and its benefits, and to answer any questions members may have.

Contributed by:

Geoff Simon, Executive Director
Western Dakota Energy Assn.
(701) m527-1832
geoff@ndenergy.org



Did you flip on your safety switch this morning? Every morning? At home and at work? Is your team's safety culture contagious?

Chris Padilla, NDLTAP Technical Outreach Expert, authors *Safety Talk* to help you become a safety guru.

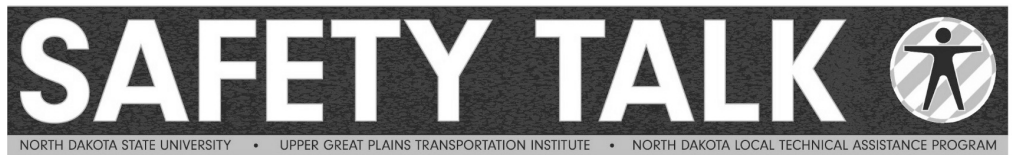
His monthly publication covers a wide array of safety considerations to help develop, enhance and remind us of key safety protocols.

They provide great topics for tailgate safety meeting discussions. A safety mindset knows no boundary. It starts at home and carries through to our community and work activities.

Safety Talk is brought to you by the North Dakota Local Technical Assistance (NDLTAP). Safety Talk is a free service – *adopt it today.*

Decide to be safe.

*Your friends at
NDLTAP*



Vehicle Backing Safety Sheet

According to the National Safety Council, one out of four vehicle accidents can be blamed on poor backing techniques. Backing accidents cause 500 deaths and 15,000 injuries per year. The use of safe vehicle backing tips by employers and employees can help prevent accidents while on and off the job.

- **Get to Know The Blind Spots.** In a medium-sized truck, blind spots can extend up to 16 feet in front and 160 feet behind a vehicle. Drivers need to remember that mirrors can never give the whole picture while backing.
- **Think in Advance.** Drivers should not put themselves into unnecessary backing situations.
- **Park Defensively.** Drivers must choose easy-exit parking spaces that don't crowd neighboring vehicles and park their vehicle in the center of the parking space.
- **Perform a Walk-Around.** Walking around a vehicle gives a driver firsthand view of the backing area and any limitations. They can check for children, soft or muddy areas, potholes, tire hazards, and other dangers.
- **Know the Clearances.** When performing a walk-around, drivers can check for obstructions, low-hanging trees and wires, and any other potential clearance-related problems.
- **Every Backing Situation is New and Different.** Sometimes a driver visits the same location several times a day and should be watchful each visit for changes and any new obstacles. Don't get complacent.
- **Use a Spotter.** A driver should ask someone to help them when backing. The driver and spotter should use hand signals instead of verbal ones and make sure they understand each other's signals. Ensure the spotter doesn't walk backwards while giving instructions.
- **When There is No Spotter.** Perform a walk-around and return to the vehicle within a few

seconds after finishing. This will allow very little time for people and/or obstacles to change behind the vehicle. Backing without a spotter should only take place after a driver has as much information about the area as possible. A back up alarm can help warn away pedestrians and drivers of other vehicles who may try to enter the area the vehicle is backing into.

- **Never Assume.** Driver's should never assume people will walk safely behind or stop for backing vehicles. If you see someone in your mirror, stop until you are certain they are clear and in a safe position.

Long-Term Solutions to Safe Backing

- **Alarms, Cameras, Radar, and Mirrors.** Installation of back-up alarms will help people be aware of a backing vehicle. Varying alarms with broadband white noise make it easier to locate.
- Installation of rear-vision camera systems in vehicles eliminates rear blind spots. Investing in a rear-vision camera system for vehicles can put drivers in full visual control of the rear of a vehicle.
- Radar systems will assist drivers in warning as vehicles, objects, or people are near the backing vehicle.
- Mirrors do not need to be high-tech. Operable, clean and properly adjusted mirrors make a world of difference.
- Creation and support of a company-wide training program on safe backing practices.

Resources: Know The Blind Spots Poster (Free) <https://www.workzonesafety.org/data-resources/public-awareness/know-the-blind-spots-poster/>

Work Zone Safety Clearinghouse <https://www.workzonesafety.org/training/rsp-runoversbackovers-course/>

January 2017 by Chris Padilla, Training Manager, NDLTAP

Go to www.ndtoa.com to find information and websites for the following:

- ◆ Officers and Directors Information
- ◆ Calendar of Events
- ◆ The *GrassRoots Report* Newsletter

- ◆ The Officer's Handbook
- ◆ Workshop Information
- ◆ Discussion Forums
- ◆ How to Access the ND Century Code
- ◆ North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF)
- ◆ Legislative Updates

- ◆ Zoning Ordinances
- ◆ Technical Assistance
- ◆ Contractor Services
- ◆ NDTOA Dues
- ◆ Taxes and more!

Winter Preparations

submitted by NDIRF

The winter season of 2017-2018 will soon be showing signs of approach. Last winter was not the most severe we've ever had – in fact, far from it – but it started so early and hung on so long that it felt like a record-breaker.

Even our average winter (and average seems to be the consensus overall seasonal forecast for this year) generates severe conditions at times and, therefore, we need to be ready to be about the business of ensuring safety for winter operations.

Accumulations of snow, whether occurring naturally or as the result of snow removal efforts, can obscure driver sight lines, impede traffic and create access problems – not only for motorists but also for public equipment operators.

Winter snow removal operations create a migrating work zone for which the motoring public often has little regard.

They are a repeated source of accidents and NDIRF notices an up-tick in related claims whenever we experience an above-average snowfall season.

There are a number of ways you can enhance the safety of snow removal operations and your citizens' winter driving experience, including the following:

- Rotating strobe lights increase the visibility of snow removal equipment.
- Back-up alarms reduce the possibility of an incident by providing an audible warning.
- "Warning – Stay Back 50 Feet" signs, mounted on the rear of snow removal equipment, can

provide an additional defense against claims.

- Equip all snow removal vehicles with adequate outside mirrors to assist drivers in observing the sides and rear of the unit during operations.
- Check all vehicle and equipment heaters, fans and blowers to ensure they properly remove frost and fog on interior glass.
- Winter survival kits should be assembled and placed in each vehicle and piece of snow removal equipment.

Consider running public service announcements through local media outlets, reminding citizens of the hazards involved in snow removal operations.

Heavy use and/or an abundance of snow, if that occurs this season, may have you scrambling to find additional snow removal equipment. Often, this equipment lacks some or all of the appropriate safety items.

If you haven't already, now is the time to make sure each piece of road working equipment has a strobe or beacon mounted on the top.

Also, rear-mounted SMV and "STAY BACK 50 FEET" signs, visible from a distance of 500 feet, should be installed.

When renting heavy equipment, check that the necessary warning apparatus described above has been installed. Be prepared – and have a **safe** winter.

51ST CONVENTION CONT'D

TUESDAY MORNING SPEAKERS:

Dale Heglund, Denise Brown, and Leanna Emmer, ND Local Technical Assistance Program, presentation on road issues and truck weights.

Geoff Simon, Janet Sanford, and Brent Bogar, Western Dakota Energy Association; presentation on the load permitting system "Load Pass" now being available state-wide. Also the changes to energy facilities siting (zoning) in the new law will be discussed.

The possibility of a breakout session for the township records and reports software (ATLR) is being considered.

If you are having questions about operating the software or just want to know more about the system please call or email Larry Syverson. If people are interested we could set something up.

Thanks for being township officers!

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Grass Roots Report

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NOTICE TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

If your county includes unorganized townships:

Is your county paying dues for each unorganized township?
The per mile funding each township gets is a result of NDTOA effort.
If your county doesn't pay dues, someone else is paying your freight!

Your county has benefited from NDTOA for many years.

**Have you calculated the benefit your county
has received from the efforts of NDTOA?**

WON'T YOU PLEASE PAY THE DUES?



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