

Connecting

OCTOBER 2023

NEWS FOR MANAGERS & MECHANICS

Back 2 School Workshops Are Done So Why Do I Need To Review?

Why do managers need to review safety training? Well, imagine if they didn't!

Picture this: A manager who hasn't reviewed safety training in ages watches buses begin to unload at their school. Suddenly, drivers are calling for emergency brake surprises, impromptu dance parties, and confusing "hold on for your life" turns with the Fast & Furious racing scenes. Chaos ensues!

But in all seriousness, here's why you should review safety training. Because a well-trained team is a safe team, and nobody wants their workplace to become a circus (unless you work at an actual circus, of course). So, managers, review that safety training and keep your workplace from becoming a circus sideshow!

Preventing Accidents: Safety training is designed to prevent accidents and crashes on the roadways. Regular review and reinforcement of safety practices help reduce the risk of crashes, which can lead to injuries, property damage, or even fatalities.

Reinforcing Knowledge: Repetition is an effective way to reinforce learning. Regular reminders help employees retain critical safety information, making it more likely that they will apply that knowledge consistently on the job. We will be featuring a safety reminder poster each month that can be posted near your trip board, in driver areas, or even on the entry door. Use them as part of your company goal to reduce accidents.

Promoting a Safety Culture: Managers set the tone for workplace safety. By actively engaging in safety training review, you demonstrate your commitment to safety, which can influence employees to prioritize safety in their daily tasks. A strong safety culture is more likely to develop when you lead by example.

Remember that while humor can be a great tool for raising awareness, safety on buses should always be taken seriously. Safety isn't our goal, it's the 4.0 standard to surpassing their greatest expectations.

REMINDER

Electronic copies of all routes, including the assigned driver, is due by **November 1st**. Copies should be sent to: Dan, Bill, and Aaron



COMPANY GOAL:

11 LAST SEPTEMBER

2023- 2024
School Year

07

ACCIDENT COUNT

GET THE BIG PICTURE

THEORY OF DRIVING

The Style Of Life

When behind the wheel, individuals are most likely to demonstrate the traits, behaviors, or personality characteristics evident in non-driving time. We drive as we live.

If we are:

- Over-aggressive
- Non-conforming
- Egotistical
- Domineering
- Combative
- Impulsive
- Impatient
- Intolerant
- Irrational
- Hot-headed

These drivers also have a tendency to not be present and aware of the space around them.

We all need reminders to be CALM, PATIENT, & LEVEL HEADED on the roadways schools & at our garage locations.

Connecting



FALL BUILDING CHECKLIST

- WINTERIZE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM
- GET HEAT SYSTEM READY FOR WINTER
- TEST SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS AND REPLACE BATTERIES
- POWER-WASH WINDOWS AND SIDING
- CHECK WATER SOFTENER, ADD SALT AS NEEDED
- FLUSH HOT WATER HEATER AND REMOVE SEDIMENT
- INSPECT ROOF FOR LEAKS, MISSING SHINGLES OR FASTENERS
- TURN OFF & DRAIN OUTDOOR WATER FAUCETS
- CHANGE FURNACE FILTERS, VACUUM FILTER AREA IF NEEDED. VACUUM HEAT EXCHANGE RADITORS
- TEST SUMP PUMP
- REMOVE LEAVES AND DEBRIS FROM GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS
- RUN WATER IN FLOOR DRAINS AND FLUSH TOILETS IN UNUSED SPACES (UNLESS FIXTURES HAVE BEEN WINTERIZED)
- CLEAN & INSPECT EXHAUST VENTS
- CLEAN CARPETS
- OIL GARAGE DOOR TRACKS, ROLLERS, AND HINGES
- INSPECT HOSES/WATER LINES FOR LEAKS
- CHECK SINKS AND TOILETS FOR LEAKS
- CHECK ALL CORDING AND WIRING FOR DAMAGE



Tou Xiong & his wife welcomed their 8th child!



Arthur Xiong

Other news...Jason Harrington has been hired as the new manager in Rockford and will start October 2nd. Barb Myers will work with Jason and Tou as part of the Rockford support team until December 1st.

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

3rd—Liz Lunzer
4th—Ben Vlaminc
7th—Tim Larson
21st—Lanny Woods
25th—Marc Theis
25th—Rieley Fleming
26th—Lizi Hennek
27th—Frank Moyer
31st—Jim Lindfors

HERE'S A FUN RECRUITING EVENT!

BIG RIG BOO II TRUCK OR TREAT

Oct 14 2023 12 PM-3 PM

TRUCK OR TREAT AT EACH BIG RIG/BOOTH
FOOD TRUCKS: BLUE LOON CONCESSIONS, LAKESIDE LEMONADE, BAMASOTA BBQ AND THE BURRITO KING

STAY FOR THE TRACTOR/TRUCK/SEMI PULL AT 3 PM.
ADMISSION RATES: ADULTS \$10.00, KIDS (12 AND UNDER) \$5.00, KIDS UNDER 5 ARE FREE

Scott County Fairgrounds, 7151 190th St W Jordan MN
Questions? Contact the Fair office at 952-492-2436 or Brent Durand 651-470-7956

ATTENTION CENTRAL MANAGERS

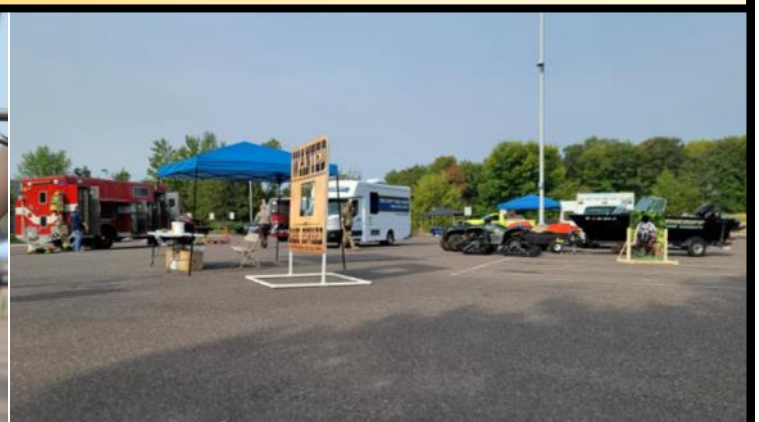
HALLOWEEN TRUCK EVENT

It's becoming a bigger event each year and has great potential to do some recruiting. It doesn't cost to be in the event but will cost in candy.

RSVP by **October 10, 2023** to ensure we make the necessary arrangements for a memorable event. You can RSVP to the Scott County Fair office at fairofficestaff@scottcountyfair.com

Spread the word about the Big Rig Boo to your family, friends and neighbors to join in the fun.

Pine City Safety Day at the Pine County Courthouse



Connecting

Minneota—2005

Minneota was platted in 1881 when the railroad was extended to that point. The name Minneota is derived from the Dakota language meaning "much water".

Boxelder Bug Days? "Boxelder Bug Variations, a poem book published by larger-than-life Minneota author, Bill Holms. His influence on Minneota changed its annual town celebration to Boxelder Bug Days in his honor.

Boxelder Bug Days was originally designed to be a one-day event. But when the parade was scheduled for the same time as a football game, they scheduled the town celebration over two days. Now it's three days of family fun celebrated the weekend following Labor Day.

This is a very close knit community and take pride in their sports teams, the Minneota Vikings. It's rare that football, volleyball, wrestling, and girls basketball don't make an appearance in the state tournament during the year.

Minneota is ranked No. 65 among 400 public schools in Minnesota which is quite an accomplishment for a small school with about 520 students. As of the 2020 US census, there were about 1370 people living in the city.

Ivanhoe is a small city located in Southwest, MN in Lincoln County. We were named from the novel Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott. This is where we get our nickname "The Storybook Town". The 2020 Census lists Ivanhoe as a community of 617. Ivanhoe is a very small school district with an average of 90 students.



Winter weather can be brutal out west because of the winds that whip across the farmland. Justin with some help from Ben created this "blizzard beast" for checking roads and pulling out buses.

Today, the Minneota & Ivanhoe garage consists of 10 bus routes and 1 van routes with 26 drivers who do a nice job of covering everything needed for the two school districts.

Justin Knutson has been managing in Minneota since February 2015. He and his wife Amber have three kids; Jents, Avery, and Jasper which keep them very busy.

After all these years working for 4.0, what does he enjoy in his free time? The great outdoors camping, fishing, and even driving his team of horses.

Lots of adventure at the Knutson Farm!



With the addition of Ivanhoe after the passing of Norm Van Overbeke. Justin began managing both locations. This had its challenges as a manger and mechanic. After a really stressful school year, Ben Vlaminck joined Justin and have been a great team ever since.



Who's Bob Becker

Let's get to know Bob Becker.

He grew up in the North Mankato area marrying his high school sweetheart Amber 17 years ago. They have three great kids; Charlie, Wesley, and Kate. This family has a passion for sports so you will usually find them cheering on one of the kids as they round the bases from early spring until fall. Even Bob will pick up a bat and take a few swings to keep in shape.



In the hectic world we live in Bob finds the best way for him to stay balanced and clear headed is heading to the mountains or the lake. Enjoying the bounties of hunting and fishing has become his favorite way to refocus life onto what is important.

Bob has worn many hats over the last 20 years. When Mike Hennek calls you and says, "What are you doing tomorrow, have you got any plans" there's a plan already in the works. And you guessed it, Bob answered the call. He started from the ground up as a bus washer, grounds crew, and sub driver in the early days in Westonka. As Bob's duties evolved he went on to manage the Glencoe location. He passed that onto Terry Becker. With his gift of budgeting and calculations he coordinated parts orders for the entire fleet. His goals led him to moving into the general manager position which expanded into the corporate financial officer, and now part owner. His primary duty is negotiating school contracts and new ventures. His brain works in numbers and school relations nearly all day long.

Everybody has a little quirk and if you've ever been Beckered you'll know what I'm talking about. Bob's brain works in overdrive most of the time. If you're catching him on an "overdrive" day you may only get 3 minutes of talking time before he needs to move onto something else. If you didn't get your important questions out in the beginning of the conversation, he may end the call before you even realize that you didn't ask your question. That's being Beckered.

When I asked him, "what is the most important guidance you want all of us to know". Bob replied, "From the bottom of my heart. I appreciate the hard work you put in everyday because I understand what it takes."

Tip #1

GET THE BIG PICTURE

Getting the "big picture" when driving a vehicle means having a broad awareness of your surroundings and potential hazards on the road. It involves continuously scanning your environment and using your mirrors and peripheral vision to gather information.



By staying alert, using your mirrors, and scanning your surroundings regularly, you can reduce the risk of accidents and make your journeys safer for you and other road users.

Achieve a circle of AWARENESS

- **SPACE** for the vehicle
- **VISIBILITY** for the driver
- **TIME** to make decisions



OCTOBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 PAYROLL PO LISTS DUE	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 SCHOOL DIST. BILLING	17 PAYROLL PO LISTS DUE	18	19	20 MEA BREAK 4.0 Holiday	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN 	<p>DATES TO KNOW</p> <p>←—————→</p> <p>OCTOBER 20TH—MEA FRIDAY 4.0 HOLIDAY NOVEMBER 23RD & 24TH—THANKSGIVING BREAK 4.0 HOLIDAY DECEMBER 6TH—MANAGERS CHRISTMAS PARTY FOGO DE CHAO DECEMBER 13TH—MECHANICS CHRISTMAS PARTY FOGO DE CHAO</p>			