

Connecting

APRIL 2024

NEWS FOR MANAGERS & MECHANICS

RANDOM INSPECTIONS

What's Coming Down The Road

A random inspection on a school bus is like a surprise visit from the "Vehicle Fairy" – except this fairy doesn't leave quarters under the hood. Instead, it checks for loose screws, inspects tire tread like a tire detective, and scrutinizes the brakes as if they owe it money. It's the moment when the bus holds its breath, hoping it doesn't have any embarrassing mechanical secrets.

Meanwhile, the driver nervously sweats, trying to remember if they cleaned out that mysterious lunchbox under the seat. In the end, it's a comedy of errors and sighs of relief, as the bus and driver emerge unscathed, ready to roll another day.

What are the 3 most common roadside & random inspection levels?

Level 1 – This is not only the most common type of roadside inspection but also the most detailed and comprehensive. The inspector will check the **driver's documentation** (including CDL, medical certificate, and others) as well as the entirety of the vehicle's interior and exterior (including the pretrip).

Level 2 – Nearly identical to level one inspections; however, the inspector will do a walk-around inspection of the vehicle rather than conducting an extensive examination.

Level 3 – A driver-only inspection in which the officer will thoroughly examine a driver's records, including daily logs and vehicle inspection reports.

What do CDL driver's need to have with them?

- Driver's License—If they have corrective lenses or hearing aids, they must have them with them
- Medical card, **IF** you have a Medical Waiver

What so Type III drivers need to have with them?

- Driver's License—If they have corrective lenses or hearing aids, they must have them with them
- Medical card, ALL Class D drivers must have them with them when driving
- If they have a CDL but drive Type III: Only **IF** they have a Medical Waiver

WHO'S getting the fine?

If the driver is missing documentation during a random inspection then **THE DRIVER** gets the fine.

Check in with your drivers and walk through your fleet to make sure Pre-trips are filled out correctly and up-to-date.



DOWN 3 FROM 2023

**2023-2024
School Year**

48

ACCIDENT COUNT

22-23

23-24

12

MARCH

9

91

48



MECHANICS CORNER

How many times has your spare bus hauled students this school year? If you can count the amount on one hand, we should work on that.

Most of us know that when these buses sit things tend to go bad. Window switches corrode, fan motors stop spinning, brake lines fail to hold in the fluid, brake rotors corrode, and caliper pins can seize. Little critters have a tendency to move in too. Remember four weeks ago when it finally left the shop on a route and drove through all that salt left on the road? Did it get fueled and washed up afterwards?

I get it. Our drivers like their everyday route buses and they want you to schedule maintenance around their schedules. But you have a job to do and a schedule to maintain too. Send them out in your spare bus so you have adequate time to work on their everyday bus and fix the ten additional items you found wrong with it.

This is part of the reason we have spare buses. They are not only for when an everyday bus breaks down.

Think about them like a tool in your toolbox, not a burden to maintain but a useful tool. Keep that old spare bus happy.



SUMMER WORKSHOP

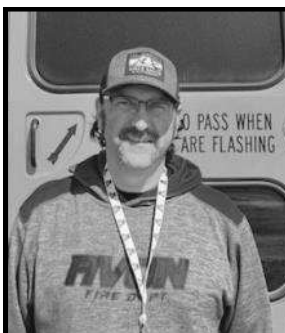
JULY 25TH—MANDATORY FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

- ⇒ MANAGERS & OFFICE STAFF—PIONEER BUILDING, MANKATO
- ⇒ MECHANICS—TRAINING LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

EVENING BBQ AT THE SAINTS GARAGE, HOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE

JULY 26TH—4.0 GOLF TOURNAMENT & BREAKFAST

- ⇒ 9 HOLES, 9AM START - MORE INFORMATION TO COME



Meet the
New
Manager
in the
4.0 Team!



Eric Notch

ALBANY



5 Things to Remember to Protect Your Drivers

As spring brings fluctuating temperatures, the risk of slip and fall accidents increases, particularly in the morning when freezing conditions may prevail. Employers must take proactive measures to ensure the safety of their employees during this time. Here's how:

Education and Awareness: Start by educating employees about the risks associated with freezing temperatures in the morning. Make them aware of the potential hazards of icy patches and slippery surfaces, especially during the transition from winter to spring. Encourage employees to report any hazardous conditions they encounter promptly.

Safe Walking Routes: Establish safe walking routes for employees, especially in areas prone to freezing in the morning. Clearly mark these routes with signs or cones to direct employees away from hazardous areas.

De-icing and Salting: Keep ample supplies of de-icing agents and salt on hand to treat icy surfaces effectively. Ensure designated individuals are responsible for applying these materials to parking lots, sidewalks, and other walkways before employees arrive in the morning.

Prompt Maintenance: Address any drainage issues or leaks that could lead to the formation of ice on walkways and parking lots. Promptly repair damaged pavement or concrete surfaces that may contribute to slip and fall accidents.

Regular Inspections: Implement a regular inspection schedule to identify and address any hazards promptly. Check parking lots, walkways, and entry points for ice buildup or slippery spots, paying particular attention to areas shaded from the morning sun.

By implementing these measures, employers can help ensure the safety of their employees during the spring thaw when freezing temperatures pose an increased risk of slip and fall accidents.

WORK MILESTONES

Lucas Schaefer
has been with 4.0 for
10 years!

Justin Knutson
Is celebrating
9 years

Elgin Yates
Is celebrating
9 years

Tim Larson
Is celebrating
9 years

John Brandt
Is celebrating
9 years

Liz Lunzer
Is celebrating
9 years

CDL & Type III Driver's lists

due in Excel Spreadsheets by

April 12th

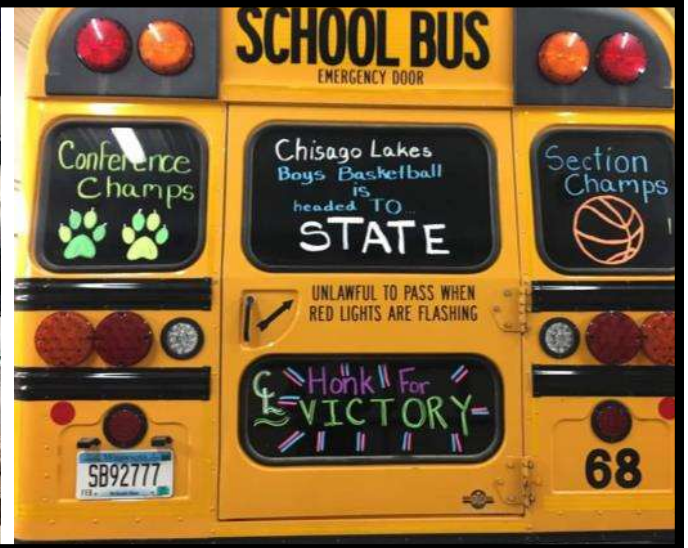


Connecting

Recruiting in Albany



Chisago Heads to State



Rockford

Named for a nearby rocky "ford" on the Crow River, Rockford was founded in 1855 through a campaign which was started in St. Paul to lure settlers to the Minnesota Territory.

Rockford was officially incorporated as a village in 1881. Building up to WWII, Rockford businesses bloomed, and growth continued at a steady pace across the city. Rockford Road would become highway 55 in the 1940's creating better access to the Twin Cities as well as other communities to the west. In the 1950's Rockford fielded a championship amateur baseball team. 1965 downtown experienced massive flooding in which several homes and businesses were damaged beyond repair. Between 1970 and 1980 the population of Rockford tripled from 730 to over 2,400. Today, over 4,500 residents call Rockford home.

The main school district is Rockford Public Schools. They include an elementary school, a middle school and a high school. The elementary focuses mainly on an arts program, while the middle and high schools put more of an emphasis on technology.

Today they have 15 bus routes, 3 SPED buses and 5 Type III routes. What makes Rockford a bit different than some of the other companies? It's truly a bedroom community tucked into a number of large cities.

Rockford Bus Service joined 4.0 in 2007. Barb Myers managed from 2009 to 2021. Her passion has always been about safety. She has been the Training Coordinator for 4.0 the last decade. The faithful mechanics, Tom Swore with 13 years with 4.0 and Elgin Yates with 9 years, have been a big part of the foundation of this location.



Tou Xiong joined the fall of 2022 as Assistant Manager. He enjoys his family time and being around his lovely wife and children as much as possible. Tou has some great wisdom, "Always strive to be happy in life, regardless of the outcome."


Jason Harrington became part of the team in the fall of 2023. He has two teenagers, daughter Chamberlain and son Jameson. Being creative is one way he stays balanced in this hectic world. He loves painting and is being to create some fun PopArt paintings.





APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 PAYROLL PO LISTS DUE	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 UPDATED DRIVERS LISTS DUE TO DAN	13
14	15	16	17	18 PAYROLL PO LISTS DUE	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BRING AWARENESS TO EVERYONE</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">AFTER the last stop, before returning to the garage, pull over and walk through the bus THOROUGHLY...checking every seat for sleeping children. Walk the bus a second time once you have parked the bus after route.</p>			