First Question

What is a fleet?
Is this a fleet?
Is this a fleet?
Is this a fleet?
First thing everyone needs to know!

“What does it mean to be 100% compliant with all regulations”

Driver Qualification Files
Background Checks
Drug & Alcohol Testing
Driver Training
Pre-Trip/Post-Trip Inspections
Vehicle Maintenance Files

That means, you are at the legal minimum to operate!

What else are you doing to be safe and reduce your liability?
Second thing everyone needs to know!

• You don’t have to own a regulated vehicle to be liable
Written Policies

This is where it starts
Take two minutes and draw a picture of a tree.
Show of hands
Second Question

When do we usually write policies?
PLEASE READ THIS – It happens so easily with small children!

360 Circle of Safety

A Pike Utility crew found this child while conducting a CIRCLE OF SAFETY of the company truck the crew members were driving. I don’t want to think about what would have happened if the employee had gotten in the truck and driven off without doing a walk around. Please share this eye opening, bone chilling photo and experience with your work groups, family and friends.

Why Have Policies?!?!
Written Policies and Procedures

- They provide consistency
- They provide guidance
- They provide solutions
- They provide regulatory compliance
- They also provide problems with liability if the procedures are not followed.
Fleet Policies!
Why We Have Them

• To set standards
• To hold people accountable for consistent discipline
• To protect company’s liability
Why Are They Important

• Helps protect us from
  – Negligent Hiring
  – Negligent Retention
  – Negligent Training
  – Punitive Damages
Do you have a Seat Belt Usage Policy?
Distracted Drivers Policy?
$21 Million Against Coca Cola

A jury in Corpus Christi, Texas awarded $21 million in damages to a woman who was struck by a Coca-Cola driver who had been talking on her cell phone at the time of the accident. The plaintiff’s attorneys were able to successfully argue that Coca-Cola’s cell phone policy for its drivers was “vague and ambiguous.”

“From the time I took the Coca Cola driver’s testimony and obtained the company’s inadequate cell phone driving policy, I knew we had a corporate giant with a huge safety problem on our hands.”
How often do you update the emergency contact information?
Are all drivers pre-employment drug tested?

Are all drivers in a random pool?

Are post accident tests performed?
Examples of Good Fleet Policies

- **Working Injury and Accident Free Is A Condition Of Employment!**
- **Policies should align with Federal and State regulations first.**
  - Acknowledgment and agreement sign off sheet.
  - State what the hiring standards are.
  - Personal use/application statement
  - Age requirements
  - Annual reviews of MVR’s
Fleet Policies Continued

- Define Major Violations
- Define Minor Violations
- Define usage of company owned vehicles.
- Define usage of personal vehicles used for company business
- Define usage of rental vehicles
Fleet Policies Continued

• Describe safety practices expected by the company.
  – Speed and following distances
  – Rural road driving
  – Proper lane changing techniques (SMOG)
  – Intersections
  – Backing procedures (GOAL)
  – Turning techniques
Fleet Policies Continued

- Passengers, yes or no

- Traffic Violations, when must they be reported?

- Accident scene – how to act, what not to say!

- Reporting of citations
Is Your Equipment Safe?
Fleet Maintenance

• Keep good records

• Show inspections and repairs
Is this Safe?
An empty fruit-bin trailer being towed came unhitched and smashed into another car, killing the female driver.

The drop pin in the single-tongue tow hitch snapped and the trailer came adrift, tearing the side off a sedan traveling in the opposite direction.
2018, New York limousine crash
2018, New York limousine crash

- October 6, 2018, a **stretch limousine** crashed killing 20, the driver, all 17 passengers, and two pedestrians who were in a nearby parking lot. It is the deadliest transportation-related disaster in the United States since 2009.
The driver of the limo, did not have a Commercial Driver's License with a passenger endorsement.

The limo was a "chopped vehicle", cut and extended, needing a federal certificate to operate, which it did not have.

It had also failed inspection the previous month due to the absence of this certificate, and an antilock brake warning indicator light that stayed on, a dangling brake line that could have made contact with a tire, defective emergency exits and defective windshield wipers, making it illegal to operate on public roads.
2018, New York limousine crash

The inspection further noted that similar issues had been found in March. Prestige Limousines, was told to cease and desist from further limousine operations until further notice. It was later reported that different license plates had been affixed to the limousine at its March and September inspections; however the Vehicle Identification Number was the same.
DOT Compliance does not release you from liability!!

Exemptions do not release you from liability!!
Thank You for Attending