

# MoTA CONDUCTS “NO ZONE” DEMONSTRATION DURING TEAM SPIRIT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Missouri Trucking Association and Hogan Transports, Inc. combined to provide high school students and their advisors about the “No Zone” areas around a commercial motor vehicle. Ron Breau, Vice President of the Association and Steve Eckhoff, a driver for Hogan, provided the training at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri on March 7, 2011.

The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) and the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) developed the Team Spirit project. The program is based on the belief that youth themselves, when implementing traffic safety prevention programs, are more successful among their own peers. Through their participation in this program, Team Spirit members strengthen their individual involvement to be safe and courteous drivers.

Through their involvement in this program, Team Spirit members strengthen their individual determination and ability to remain alcohol and drug free. By working together, they become an effective team creating positive changes within their schools and communities.

During the training the members learned about the importance of the trucking industry to the world economy. Members were surprised to learn that the industry employs one out of every 15 Missourians and that 72 percent of communities depend entirely on trucking to move their goods. Steve Eckhoff challenged the members to provide him with one thing that you can buy at a retail store that did not come on a truck.



The members viewed a video that elaborates the “No Zone” areas around commercial motor vehicles where the driver cannot see a vehicle. The video also discussed the importance of moving in and out of the “No Zones” as quickly as possible. Steve Eckhoff stressed that if you cannot see the driver in his rearview mirror then the driver cannot see your vehicle.

To aid in the demonstration, a bus was staged on the right side of the “No Zone” vehicle. Two automobiles were staged at the rear of the truck and on the left side both within the “No Zone” areas of the truck. When approaching the vehicle the students were encouraged to go down the right side of the vehicle so when they were placed in the driver’s position in the truck they would be able to tell that even large size vehicles can get lost from the truck drivers view. This provides an important message not to pass on the right side of a commercial motor vehicle.





Each member of the conference received an opportunity to place themselves behind the wheel of the 18 wheeler and witness firsthand the “No Zones”. Steve asked each of them to tell him whether they could see the vehicle on the left, right or rear of the trucks. Many of the members commented that they now know the importance of knowing these areas so that they would be safe around trucks.

This member questioned Steve about what the thing that was covered up on the fender was. Steve explained to her that was a mirror that was added on to the vehicle to aid the driver in seeing vehicles that are in the “No Zone”. The member indicated that was a very important item to have and wondered if all vehicles were equipped with them.



"**Action planning**" is one of the very important processes that the members worked on during the conference. Witnessing the “No Zone” helps the members to take home and apply each and every day they are driving their vehicles. Ron Breau, closed the sessions by asking the members, when you are mom or dad and they are beside a truck what are they going to tell them? The members responded “Get out of the “No Zone””.

The Association and Hogan wishes to thank MoDOT’s Division of Highway Safety and Team Spirit for the opportunity to speak at their conference and encouraged each school to contact us if they would like a demonstration at their school.