



**JULY 2026 • 57th Year
SPECIAL TOW SHOW EDITION**

hook & winch



FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUE MILES

As we move into the heart of summer, excitement is building for what is shaping up to be one of the biggest and best Indiana Tow Shows our association has ever hosted! In just a few short weeks, our members, families, vendors, and industry partners will gather at beautiful Fair Oaks Farms for a weekend filled with education, networking, competition, entertainment, and fellowship.

Our committee and volunteers have spent countless hours planning an event that truly offers something for everyone. Whether you're attending to learn, compete, discover new products, reconnect with friends, or simply enjoy a weekend with your family, I believe you'll leave proud to be part of the Indiana Towing & Wrecker Association.

Don't Wait—Pre-Register Today!

One of the most important things you can do before arriving at the Tow Show is **complete your pre-registration online**. Pre-registration allows us to properly prepare for meals, seating, activities, giveaways, and family events. It also helps our volunteers provide a smoother check-in experience when you arrive.

Continued on page 3

towingindiana.com



Associate Members

2026 OFFICERS

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Josh Hercamp

31 Wrecker Service
1130 Industries Road Suite D
Columbus, IN 47203
Phone: 812-372-9085
Fax: 812-372-9431
Email: 31wrecker@comcast.net

President:

Bill McClanahan

Bill's Professional Towing
2765 W. Maumee St.
Angola IN 46703
Phone: 260-829-6287
Email: Orland@Billsprofessionaltowing.com

Vice President North:

Dale Nester

D-1 Truck & Trailer
Repair & Towing
134 US 421
Francesville, IN 47946
Phone: 219-567-2053
Fax: 219-567-2382
Email: d1truckrepair@hotmail.com

Vice President Central:

JR Cook

Cooks Towing Service Inc.
1439 S. Holt Rd.
Indianapolis IN 46241
Email: Cindy@cookstowing.com

Vice President South:

Ken Parish

Ken's Westside Service
3111 Venture Blvd.
Bloomington, IN 47404
Phone: 812-336-9050
Fax: 812-372-9431
Email: Kensewestside@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Mark Wilson

2020 Indianapolis Rd
Crawfordsville IN 47933
Phone: 765-362-9350
Fax: 765-395-2284
Email: Mark@towingandrepair.com

Treasurer:

Walt Hamilton

1310 E. Main St.
Crawfordsville IN 47933
Phone: 765-230-0133
Fax: 574-773-2930
Email: Waltsservice@sbcglobal.net

Executive Director:

Sue Miles

3203 North 375 East
Anderson IN 46012
Phone: 765-288-6041
Cell: 765-393-6012
Email: Director@towingindiana.com

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Advertisers needed for 2026 Newsletters:

If you're interested in reaching all of our members during 2026 by advertising in our newsletter, just call Sue Miles at 765-288-6041.

Continued from page 1

Please remember that pre-registration is required for many of our featured events, including:

- Friday and Saturday complimentary meals
- Saturday Awards Banquet
- Ladies' **Denim, Diamonds & Pearls** Power of the Purse Luncheon
- Tow Truck Beauty Contest
- Children's Family Fun activities

Families should also remember that **each child must be individually registered under the Family Fun Registration tab on the ITWA website** to receive their complimentary Saturday Fair Oaks Adventures armband.

If you haven't registered yet, don't wait until the last minute—we look forward to seeing your name on the registration list!

A Weekend Packed with Activities

This year's Tow Show promises to be our most exciting yet.

Our Friday schedule includes two outstanding educational opportunities with EV Certification training and Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training before we kick off the evening festivities.

Friday night will feature our Street Party, live entertainment, great food, vendor exhibits, and our spectacular **Light Up the Night** tow truck light show.

Saturday brings even more excitement with:

- Tow Truck Beauty Contest
- Blind Rotator Challenge
- Vendor demonstrations
- DJ Steve French spinning music throughout the day
- Photo Booth
- Hourly prize drawings
- Family activities at Fair Oaks Adventures
- Ladies' Denim, Diamonds & Pearls Luncheon
- Country Line Dancing
- Awards Banquet
- Networking with towing professionals from across Indiana and neighboring states

Whether you've attended every Tow Show or this will be your first, I encourage you to participate in as many activities as possible. The relationships built during weekends like these are one of the greatest benefits of ITWA membership.

Legislative Update

While we're preparing for the Tow Show, your Association continues working behind the scenes to protect and advance the interests of Indiana's towing professionals.

I'm pleased to announce that we have successfully negotiated a new legislative services agreement with **Ice Miller LLP** for the upcoming **2026–2027 legislative session**.

Even better, we were able to negotiate terms that are significantly more affordable for the Association while maintaining the high level of representation our members deserve.

We are excited to continue our long-standing relationship with **Hamilton Smith** and the outstanding team at Ice Miller. Hamilton has been a trusted advocate for our industry and has played an instrumental role in helping ITWA navigate legislative challenges while building strong relationships at the Statehouse.

Over the coming months, our Legislative Committee will begin working with Hamilton to identify priorities for the next session, pursue legislation that benefits our members, and continue protecting the towing industry across Indiana. We look forward to another productive legislative year and appreciate the continued support of our Board of Directors and membership.

Thank You

Finally, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, committee members, sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and everyone who has invested their time and resources into making this year's Tow Show possible.

The Indiana Tow Show continues to grow because of the dedication of people who believe in this association and in each other.

I encourage every member to attend, bring your family, invite a fellow tower, and help us make the 2026 Indiana Tow Show our best one yet.

Thank you for your continued support of the Indiana Towing & Wrecker Association. I look forward to seeing each of you at Fair Oaks Farms on July 31 and August 1.

Stay safe, and I'll see you at the Tow Show!

Sue Miles

Executive Director

Indiana Towing & Wrecker Association

ITWA WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Indiana Tow Show is one of a kind. It is an escape to the country on a modern-day farm. The ITWA Tow Show is an adventure that you won't want to miss. There is something for everyone: the Truck Beauty Contest, the Friday Night Street Party, the Friday Night Light Show, the Rotator Challenge, the Ladies Luncheon along with Line Dancing, the Saturday Night Awards Banquet, and so much more.

Along with tow trucks galore and vendors showcasing their wares, there will be farm fresh food and lots of family fun. So come on out with your family and friends to enjoy a Tow Show adventure at Fair Oaks Farms.

ITWA members there are many ways that you can be instrumental in the success of this show. There are sponsorship opportunities available. There will also be opportunities to work at the show. Please reach out to Sue Miles, Executive Director and let her know the support you can provide to make this show our best show yet.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the show!

Until Then,

Crystal

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Thank You For Supporting ITWA!
UNITED BY THE HOOK • STRONGER TOGETHER

2026 INDIANA TOW SHOW

Fair Oaks Farms • Fair Oaks, Indiana

July 31–August 1, 2026

United By The Hook • Stronger Together

FRIDAY • JULY 31, 2026

TIME	EVENT
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Vendor Set Up
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	ATRI – EV Certification Class
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	TIMS – Traffic Incident Management Training
2:00 PM	Registration Opens
3:00 PM	Vendor Exhibits Open
6:45 PM	Opening Ceremonies & National Anthem
7:00 PM	Cookout • Food & Fellowship
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Dawg Days Band
Following Concert	50/50 Raffle Drawing
9:00 PM	Friday Night Light Show

2026 INDIANA TOW SHOW

Fair Oaks Farms • Fair Oaks, Indiana

July 31–August 1, 2026

United By The Hook • Stronger Together

SATURDAY • AUGUST 1, 2026

TIME	EVENT
9:00 AM	Registration Opens
9:00 AM	Vendor Exhibits Open
9:00 AM	Silent Auction Opens
9:00–11:00 AM	Beauty Contest Registration (ITWA Booth)
9:00–11:00 AM	Rotator Challenge
All Day	Kids' Fair Oaks Adventures (ITWA armband required)
10:00 AM–4:00 PM	DJ Steve French • Music & Photo Booth
Hourly (10 AM–4 PM)	Prize Drawings at DJ Booth (Must be present to win)
11:00 AM	Beauty Contest Judging Begins
11:30 AM	Ladies' Denim, Diamonds & Pearls Luncheon
1:15 PM	Country Line Dancing
1:30–3:30 PM	Blind Rotator Challenge
3:15 PM	Silent Auction Closes
5:45 PM	Bar Opens
6:15 PM	Awards Banquet Dinner
7:30 PM	Program & Awards
Immediately Following	Live Auction • Gun Raffle • 50/50 Winner

Weekend Highlights

- ✓ Vendor Expo & Industry Exhibits
- ✓ ATRI EV Certification & TIMS Training
- ✓ Tow Truck Beauty Contest
- ✓ Rotator Challenge & Blind Rotator Challenge
- ✓ Kids' Fair Oaks Adventures
- ✓ DJ Steve French, Photo Booth & Hourly Prize Drawings
- ✓ Awards Banquet, Live Auction, Gun Raffle & 50/50



INDIANA TOWING &
WRECKER ASSOCIATION

*United By The Hook.
Stronger Together.*

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL AFTERNOON!

Denim, Diamonds & Pearls

**BEST DRESSED
CONTEST!**

**A LADIES LUNCHEON
AT THE 2026 INDIANA TOW SHOW**



SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026



11:30 AM



**FAIR OAKS FARMS CONFERENCE CENTER
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chance to win!



BEST DRESSED

Come ready to
shine!



GREAT FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Connect, laugh,
and celebrate!



COUNTRY WESTERN LINE DANCING

Immediately following
the luncheon!



**SEATING IS LIMITED –
*Register Today!***

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Register online at www.towingindiana.com
under the 2026 Tow Show tab.



INDIANA TOWING &
WRECKER ASSOCIATION

*United By The Hook.
Stronger Together.*

KEEP THE FUN GOING!
JOIN US FOR

*Denim,
Diamonds
& Pearls*

Ladies LINE DANCING

After the Ladies Luncheon!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026



Immediately Following
the Ladies Luncheon



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- ★ Great Music
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Grab your boots and let's dance!

Come ready to kick up your heels, make new friends,
and enjoy an afternoon of country fun!

PART OF THE 2026
INDIANA TOW SHOW

Fair Oaks Farms • July 31 – August 1, 2026



PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCHEON.
Register online at www.towingindiana.com
under the 2026 Tow Show tab.

GOOD FOOD. GOOD COMPANY. GREAT MEMORIES. ❤️ WE CAN'T WAIT TO DANCE WITH YOU!

What is a US DOT Number and Why You May Need One?

By Brian J. Riker



Brian J. Riker is the President and Chief Compliance Specialist at Fleet Compliance Solutions, a nationwide motor carrier safety and compliance consulting firm that specializes in non-traditional fleets such as towing and auto transport companies. With more than 30 years' experience as a tower and auto transport company owner, Brian blends real world experience with professional knowledge of the regulations and best practices to help towers stay safe, stay compliant and thrive in business.

July 2026

It seems like the towing industry faces new regulations daily, and while that is an exaggeration, there are some regulations that get fresh scrutiny after something happens to trigger a renewed interest from regulators. The US DOT number is one such item facing renewed interest due to a sharp rise in fraud related to fake motor carriers or legitimate motor carriers having their id stolen by bad actors.

What is a US DOT number?

Any business that uses commercial motor vehicles to engage in interstate commerce, meaning their trucks with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) greater than 10,000 pounds, or the freight they haul (including cars), crosses a state or international border is required to register with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, which in turn issues a unique identification number that is then required to be displayed on all their power units used in interstate commerce. Many states also require anybody that operates a commercial motor vehicle to obtain a US DOT number even if they only operate intrastate, meaning their trucks, nor the freight they haul, ever cross a state or international border.

Do I Really Need One?

For most towing companies the answer is yes. This is because most of the tow trucks on the road today are at least 14,500 GVWR, with many well over that, and we routinely tow vehicles that are coming from out of state, will be going out of state after they are repaired, or we cross state lines ourselves. This is known as “interstate commerce” and, as such, requires at least a US DOT registration number.

Just because the vehicles are wrecked or disabled does not relieve the towing company of its obligation to register with the US DOT before engaging in interstate commerce. While wrecked or disabled vehicles, when towed from their primary point of disablement (where they first broke down or were wrecked) are exempt commodities, that exemption only applies to the operating authority portion of the federal regulations and some specific hours of service rules when towed at the request of law enforcement.

Types of US DOT Numbers

There are three classes of US DOT registration that apply to towing operations.

Private Motor Carrier of Property – Is exclusively for companies that only haul their own cargo or vehicles, i.e., if a product manufacturer owned trucks and hauled exclusively their own products, they would be a private motor carrier.

Exempt For-Hire Motor Carrier of Property – Hauls exclusively exempt commodities, which can include wrecked or disabled motor vehicles when only hauled from the place where they first broke down or were first wrecked.

Authorized For-Hire Motor Carrier of Property – Hauls stuff that is not exempt and belongs to other for compensation. This would include toolboxes, machinery, vehicles to the auction or other transport work.

What About Motor Carrier Authority?

If you haul anything other than exempt commodities, which are usually low value or unprocessed stuff like waste, rocks, dirt, etc., you will most likely need to obtain operating authority. Moving toolboxes, construction equipment, forklifts, sheds or even wrecked cars to the salvage auction usually requires operating authority in addition to a valid US DOT number.

There are two types of authority to investigate, interstate and intrastate. If the stuff you haul is coming from out of state, or going out of state, then you probably need for-hire interstate motor carrier of property authority from the FMCSA. This is commonly called an MC number, and can be obtained by applying to the FMCSA and obtaining the required insurance filings.

If your trucks, and the stuff they haul, never leave the state or country, and the final destination is not out of state or the country, then you are most likely an intrastate motor carrier of property. Each state regulates this differently, but most control this work through the Public Utility Commission or the Department of Motor Vehicles. Check with your state to see what, if any, registration and authority documents may be needed.

Why is Auto Transport Almost Always Interstate Commerce?

Those of you that haul for the auto auctions such as Adesa, Manheim, Copart or IAA may have noticed a recent trend is requiring you to have a US DOT number and/or interstate operating authority to renew or keep your contracts.

Vehicles going to or coming from the auctions are usually interstate in nature because of how the auctions market these vehicles to buyers globally. As such, the intent of their marketing effort is to sell the vehicle to any buyer, local or foreign, and as such, the intent of the shipment of the vehicle to or from the auction can be considered interstate in nature. This means; to legally provide transport services to these auctions, you must be registered as a for-hire interstate motor carrier of property.

The FMCSA is very clear in their guidance that automobiles, including wrecked and disabled vehicles going to or from an auction, are not exempt commodities. The companies that haul these vehicles must be fully qualified interstate motor carriers if the movement is interstate in nature.

It is a best practice for these auctions to require all transporters to be fully qualified interstate motor carriers since the nature of each vehicle hauled can vary and it would be a logistical nightmare to figure out if each vehicle was part of an interstate or intrastate regulated shipment before selecting a contractor to dispatch it to. They are simply staying on the side of caution to avoid any regulatory issues they may face by dispatching unqualified transporters.



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THANK YOU

2026 Indiana Tow Show Sponsors

The Indiana Towing & Wrecker Association gratefully recognizes our sponsors for their generous support of the 2026 Indiana Tow Show. Your partnership helps us provide education, advocacy, networking, family activities, and a first-class event for the towing and recovery industry.

We sincerely appreciate your confidence in ITWA and your continued commitment to our members.

- TowBooks
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- Austin Insurance

United By The Hook. Stronger Together.

Thank you for helping make the 2026 Indiana Tow Show a success!
Indiana Towing & Wrecker Association



★ 2026 INDIANA TOW SHOW ★
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EQUIPMENT?**
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SAVE THE DATES!
JULY 31 – AUGUST 1, 2026
FRIDAY & SATURDAY



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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Thank You* — TO OUR — **2026** **INDIANA TOW SHOW** **VENDORS!**



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| • Indiana Lien | • Tow Buddy – Joey Castillow |
| • InTime | • Worldwide |
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Thank You 

FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We appreciate each of our vendors for partnering with us and helping make the 2026 Indiana Tow Show a success!



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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