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FOR IMMEDIATELY RELEASE:

TEAM SAFE TRUCKING: RELEASING 30 FORESTRY TRANSPORTATION TRAINING MODULES IN 2018

Team Safe Trucking has been working on developing a Forestry Transportation Training Program for Forestry Transportation professionals since 2015. This year the organization has hired their first employee thank you to WSRI (Wood Supply Research Institute), she is a Safety Director from Maine, Miranda Gowell. Miranda has been working on the development of a curriculum along side with Jeremiah O'Donovan, Team Safe Trucking's Executive Director and the Team Safe Trucking Executive Committee, Mike Macedo, Danny Dructor, Joanne Reese, Keith Biggs, Jimmie Locklear, John Lemire, Scott Barrett, Richard Meyer, Richard Schwab.

Recently, Jeremiah O'Donovan announced that the Team Safe Training curriculum has been developed. That there will be three training tracks for the online training: Forestry Transportation Owners (FTO), Forestry Transportation Drivers (FTD) and Forestry Transportation Safety Professionals (FTSP). The curriculum includes 30 class offerings, each class covers a topic. The classes will cover the following topics and more: Introduction to Team Safe Trucking, Driver Qualifications, Driver Selection, Driver Training, Driver Condition, Maintenance Program/Vehicle Condition, Alcohol, Fatigue, Medical Clearance, Fleet Safety Programs, Accountability, Speeding, Distracted Driving, Right of Way, Turns & Curves, Following Distance, Rollovers, Clearance, Backing, Passing, Stopping and Parking, Coupling and Uncoupling, Railroads, DOT Inspections, Accidents, Breakdowns, Accident Investigations, Mill General Safety, Loading and Unloading, Entering and Exiting the Woods. The classes will range in length from 15-30 minutes. Each training track will be approximately six to seven and half hours of forestry transportation industry training. After completing each class, a certificate will be issued to the student for that topic. There will be quizzes following each training class, which can be downloaded and saved to document the student's completion of the training session. When Owners, Drivers and Safety Professionals complete their training tracks, they will receive a picture ID card certifying the individual as either an FTO, FTD or FTSP.

Team Safe Trucking's online training platform has the unique capacity to store and print each student training records at any time after completion of a class. Miranda believes this is a valuable resource for Forestry Transportation Owners, Drivers and Safety Professionals. Prospective employers can pay an annual due to Team Safe Trucking to have access to training records at Team Safe Trucking. Prospective employers may request permission to request training records from Team Safe Trucking training records from prospective drivers. Upon permission being granted, Team Safe Trucking can release training records to the member/prospective employer and gain access to the drivers training records. Participants training records are retrieved by the combination of a participants' driver's license number and first and last name.

It has been estimated that there are 88,000 forestry transportation drivers in the United States. Team Safe Trucking has announced their goal to reach 5% of the forestry transportation drivers approximately 4,500 drivers by years end. The

challenge is more than you may think. Many drivers do not have smart phones where they could complete the training online. The word needs to get out to forestry transportation professionals. Owners, drivers and safety professionals in the industry need to make the commitment to complete the trainings. But not only that there is a financial challenge ahead of Team Safe Trucking. When Team Safe Trucking meets this goal, the organization will need to cover costs associated with users utilizing the online training platform. The non-profit is charged based on users using the training platform. If all the potential forestry transportation employees in the United States were reached, the investment for this training will be approximately \$180,000.00 a year. Since the beginning, Team Safe Trucking Board members have had the goal to provide this training at no-cost to Forestry Transportation Owners, Drivers and Safety Professionals. To try to keep that goal, Team Safe Trucking is looking to apply for two grants to support this endeavor (OSHA's Susan Howard Grant and The Washington SHIP Grant each are approximately \$150,000). Team Safe Trucking board members are looking at other ways to support this Team Safe Trucking Forestry Transportation Training effort. During that effort have decided to have Educational Training Sponsors, who will offer all modules and topics released after module two this Summer.

In 2017, Team Safe Trucking released an online training Module One Forestry Transportation Owners and Drivers. This module is available now to Mills, Logging Associations, Universities, Technical Schools and others whom are interested in holding classroom trainings, conduct online trainings and just to review. If you are interested becoming a train-the-trainer you can attend a train-the-trainer training by registering for one of the train-the-trainer trainings at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/d933517e580762867510d14dfea9e911>, Miranda holds trainings every Wednesday 10AM to 10:45AM. If you are interested in becoming an educational training sponsor please reach out to Miranda Gowell at Miranda.gowell@teamsafetrucking.com or by phone at 207-841-0250.