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Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

January 6, 2012



Today is THE LAST DAY to Register!

We have a great program lined up and the weather is fantastic...click the link below to register for the MCA Convention Jan. 12-13 at spectacular Big Sky, Montana.

Just to touch on a few highlights, Wednesday evening features music by "Twang" - incoming MCA President Russ Olsen's band. Come on over to Whiskey Jack's to check out this show for a two-stepping good time!

Thursday

- Trade show & hospitality with open bar sponsored by Western States Insurance & Cummins Rocky Mountain, 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Brian Deery, AGC-A & Tim Reardon, DOT Director will be speaking at the Highway Division meeting
- Awards Banquett reception sponsored by RDO/RDO Integrated Controls starts at 6:30 p.m.
- Construction Excellence Banquet
- AGC Student Chapter Auction - two chapters again this year - great auction items!

Register today on the MCA website at www.mtagc.org.

Quick Links

[MCA Newsletter](#)

[MCA Training Page](#)

[MCA Website](#)

[MCA Winter Convention @ Big Sky](#) -

Online Registration is up!

Calendar

Jan 11-12
MCA Convention
Big Sky

Jan 18
Highway Technical Committee
MCA Office, Helena
9:00 a.m.

Jan 25
ACI Strength Testing Technician
Butte
[Registration](#)

Jan 26
Bid-Letting
MDT, Helena
9:00 am

Jan 26-27
ACI Field Testing Technician
Butte
[Registration](#)



Ban on Truck Driver Use of Hand-Held Mobile Phones

US DOT has issued a final rule that restricts the use of hand-held mobile telephones by interstate commercial motor vehicle drivers (CMV) and interstate hazmat drivers beginning January 3, 2012. The rule does not restrict or prohibit the use of hands free devices. The rule does not currently apply to CMV drivers that do not cross state lines; however, states are required to adopt the requirements within three years as a condition for continuing to receive Federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance grants.

The final rule prohibits CMV drivers from holding, dialing, or reaching for a hand-held cellular phone, including push to talk functions. The definition of dialing allows the driver to initiate, answer, or terminate a call by touching a single button on a mobile telephone or on a headset. The definition of reaching requires that the hands free device be in "close proximity" to the driver.

CMV drivers who are convicted of a hand-held cell violation twice within a three year period will be disqualified from driving for 60 days. Drivers convicted of a third violation within three years, will be disqualified from driving for 120 days. Violations are also subject federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 per violation. Motor carriers (employers) that allow their drivers to use hand-held cell phones while operating a CMV face a maximum civil penalty of \$11,000 per violation. Employers are responsible for the action of their drivers regardless of whether or not such actions are sanctioned.

Note: radios are not included in the definition of a mobile telephone, so they are not affected by the new rule.



MCA Partners to Hold Energy Conference

Quote of the Week

"True courage is like a kite; a contrary wind raises it higher."

- J. Petit-Sinn

Header of the Week

A common sight in Montana is idled construction equipment during the winter season.

The MCA staff wishes all our members a safe and happy new year!

Booths space is selling fast for the exciting Energy Conference and Trade Show April 3-4 in Billings. If you want your company front and center with the energy firms expanding operations into Montana, you can't afford to miss this opportunity. Visit www.montanaenergy.net.



Montana ENERGY
2012
Connecting Business · Creating Jobs

April 3-4, 2012

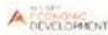
Montana's Leading Energy Conference & Trade Show



Please join us for Montana's Leading Energy Conference & Trade Show

April 3-4, 2012

MetroPark Expo Center
308 6th Avenue North
Billings, MT



Visit www.montanaenergy.net to register.

Montana 811 Contractors' Events

The Montana Utilities Coordinating Council is hosting 21 different Safe Digging Events throughout Montana. The programs are designed to allow excavators and utilities personnel bring up questions and comments, and learn about changes in the laws here in Montana.

Follow the [link](#) to see the dates and places where the event will be, and register for the one closest to you.



Time to Find the Summer Hires

The MSU-Great Falls College of Technology is hosting a Trades Rodeo and Career Fair in February. This is a great opportunity to introduce students to your company and scout out future employees. You can download this [form](#) and send it in to register, or contact Erica Rominger at MSU-GF, 406-771-5132 for more information.



Our Mission

To help our member companies become the best construction firms in Montana.



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Montana Contractors Association | 1717 11th Avenue | Helena | MT | 59601