

Oil & Gas TIDBITS



We Keep North Dakota Going Strong

Road safety a concern for North Dakota oil industry operators

The booming oil activity in western North Dakota has brought with it increased employment, increased tax revenue and a strong economy in the midst of a struggling national economy.

Another result of oil activity is the increasing truck and large machinery traffic. Roadways are busier than ever and see a continual flow of traffic going to and from the oil fields. With more vehicles on roads across western North Dakota, the importance of driving safely has multiplied exponentially, especially because the majority of these vehicles are far larger than pick-ups and cars.



With the number of traffic accidents increasing, the Petroleum Council's Oil Can! Program and the North Dakota Department of Transportation have joined forces to launch a "Drive Safely" campaign. One component of the campaign, billboards resembling the image above, will be located along five highways in western North Dakota.

In addition, oil and gas industry vehicles will be sporting the "Drive Safely" bumper stickers to serve as a reminder for those following these vehicles. A safe driving video for oil and gas industry operators is also in the works and will be coupled with other elements used during employee orientation.



"The North Dakota Department of Transportation's mission is providing a transportation system that safely moves people and goods," said Mark Nelson, NDDOT Safety Division Director. "The department is partnering with the Petroleum Council to help get more safety messages out to motorists. We want to help educate travelers with safe driving information so that truck drivers and motorists can arrive home safe."

Oil Can! encourages you to make cautious decisions on the road by remembering to: **buckle up, share the road, drive safely, and pass with care.**

Trucks and machinery traveling on a road are much larger and heavier than the average vehicle. This means that the driver's blind spots are much bigger, the vehicles are unable to stop quickly, and extra time is required to pass them. Patience must be used when sharing the roadway, no matter the size of the other vehicles you share it with.

Several of the traffic accidents that have occurred in the western portion of the state have been a result of impatient drivers not taking into account the length of time required to pass large vehicles.

For the safety of everyone on the roadway, think carefully and avoid making decisions that put your life and the lives of others in danger. We encourage you to think smart, have patience and drive safely.



2010 Teacher Education Seminar

Information and registration available on www.ndoil.org

This summer, the North Dakota Petroleum Council will once again be hosting the Teacher Education Seminar. The event will be held June 7-10 on the Bismarck State College campus. This seminar expands participating teachers' knowledge of the North Dakota oil and gas industry, from its prehistoric beginnings to the final product.

The course is FREE and two hours of graduate level continuing education credit will be available from UND for a small fee. Application deadline is May 21, 2010. Space is limited - Invite a teacher from your community to register today!

To learn more about the North Dakota oil and gas industry, visit www.ndoil.org

Surface Owner Info Center now online - Visit ndoil.org!

Questions about surface owner rights?

Check out the Surface Owner Information Center on www.ndoil.org.

Surface owner issues are sometimes difficult to comprehend and understand, especially in a split estate situation. "Split estate" is the term used when the ownership of the mineral estate is legally severed from the ownership of the surface estate at the time of sale. A split estate owner does not own the minerals associated with a given parcel of land.

Due to the complexity of surface ownership, the North Dakota Petroleum Council and the oil operators in the state want to make sure you have the resources necessary to understand information and operations that typically affect surface owners.

To assist with this education effort, the North Dakota Petroleum Council turned to industry experts.

Eric Dillé, government relations director for EOG Resources, said, "With the increased oil and gas activity occurring in the western part of the state, we are hearing a few complaints from split estate surface owners. Based on the complaints we are hearing, the Petroleum Council decided to establish a task force

that will address split estate and surface owner issues."

Dillé serves as the chair of the Petroleum Council's Split Estate/Surface Owner Task Force. The first project completed by the task force was compiling a list of frequently asked surface owner questions and answers.

This new Surface Owner Information Center is available online by visiting: www.ndoil.org > Oil Can! > Surface Owner Info Center.

Dillé said, "Producers consider themselves to be a part of the North Dakota communities where we operate. Our employees work and live in the community, and, as with any good neighbor, we want to be a positive member of the community. The goals of the task force are to address split estate issues through educating and engaging surface owners."

"We encourage the public to use this resource, and we believe it will provide a better understanding of the processes involved with split estate ownership for land owners, policy makers and western North Dakota community members," said Ron Ness, North Dakota Petroleum Council president.

Check it out!

Some questions answered in the Surface Owner Information Center...

1. What are the operator's notification requirements to a surface owner under North Dakota law prior to commencement of drilling operations?
2. What is the law regarding measurement and payment of surface damages in North Dakota for seismic and/or oil and gas drilling operations?
3. How long do drilling operations, completion operations, etc. take?

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