

WESTERN STATES EQUIPMENT MANAGERS WORKSHOP

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SUMMARY

The Western States Equipment Managers Workshop was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in August 1993. There was a great deal of quality information sharing between states and support to try new approaches. This is truly a professional group. The proof is in the efficiency gains at the individual state level. The next western states' conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, the fourth week in August 1994.

The 1993 conference included representatives from Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Oregon, Texas, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, Washington and Missouri. Key discussion topics included the following cost controls and efficiencies, recycling and environmental protection, preventive maintenance, repair shop productivity, optimum time for replacement, and sharing of equipment specification.

- *Cost Controls and Efficiencies.* Information was presented with discussions on the following topics: ODOT's reorganization; full service tire contracts in Oregon with service provided statewide at 80-outlets; after market statewide OEM contracts; tire wear to find the best tire at the best cost; electronic fuel injection engines and their performance; and automatic transmissions in dump trucks and their performance. These discussions were aimed at finding the best product and service.

- *Recycling and Environmental Protection.* Topics in this area included recycling antifreeze; synthetic oils and lubricants; alternative fuels and how are they

performing; solar powered arrow boards and variable message signs; and cleaning of spray bars to avoid hazardous material spills. There is true interest in protecting the environment.

- *Preventive Maintenance.* The fleet topics in this area included customized inspections; pre-trip inspections; performance measures to insure proper preventive measures occurs; service intervals; and operator abuse. The theme is to implement new techniques to prevent problems before they occur.

- *Repair Shop Productivity.* The questions in this area included: where can gains be made; what training is needed as a basis for mechanics and as a follow-up; and how are states measuring performance. There was also discussion on employee motivation and employee efficiency gains.

- *Optimum time for equipment replacement.* This area included discussion and examples on leasing verses acquisition; life-cycle costing in the bid process; life-standards between states; automated fleet management systems; and equipment resale.

- *Sharing of Equipment Specifications.* This topic included discussions on significant changes in standard specifications; successes and failures in new specification design; and a discussion of multi state purchasing of equipment and potential savings.

The information sharing in these workshops is excellent and critical to continued successes. Representatives from the states are enthusiastic and eager to share successes and failures, and to try new ways of doing business.