



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **High-Tech Truck Simulator Event Aims to Recruit Next Generation of Highway Workers**

OGDEN -- Ever wonder what it feels like to be behind the wheel of a plow truck with a salt spreader on slick roads at night? What about how it feels operating a big rig during a blinding snowstorm?

The New York Association of Towns (NYAOT) and the Trucking Association of New York (TANY) are aiming to answer those questions and more by giving individuals the opportunity to step into a 32-foot trailer mounted on four electronic hydraulic legs as part of a 'Truck Simulator Day' on May 28 in the Town of Ogden in Monroe County. These treacherous conditions on this rig are presets; however, they're more of a day-in-the-life reality for most local highway department drivers.

The free event is part of a workforce development plan aimed at municipal highway departments experiencing difficulties in hiring new employees. There will also be opportunities for attendees to network and for town officials to do some recruiting.

"We think this is a wonderful opportunity for anyone considering working for a town highway department, to get a real feel for what the job might entail, as they perhaps look to obtain their Commercial Driver License (CDL)," said NYAOT Executive Director Chris Koetzle, adding it's the first time the organization has partnered with the Trucking Association on this type of activity. "This will hopefully be one tool to help towns replenish the aging work force as part of towns' larger succession plans."

Vincent Dinino, TANY's CDL Program Coordinator, said the simulators can run more than 100 different scenarios for tractor trailers, logging trucks, and tanker trucks to test a person's driving skills and reaction time with either manual or automatic transmissions, or if an animal darts into the road, or they encounter a child riding a bicycle around the vehicle.

Participants will also be able to try their hand at parallel parking, blind side reversing (backing the truck to the right side), or otherwise navigate the rigs in urban and suburban settings.

"I can make it rain, snow, fog, and I can actually change the amount of skid control on the vehicle where you are actually simulated on ice or snow on a downhill," he said. "I just think it's a great learning tool, and a tool to make a decision on, perhaps, a career going forward."

Dinino said once the driver completes the course, he can review the recording with them and discuss how they did.

Registration for the event is ongoing. The event will be held on May 28, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Town of Ogden. Individuals interested in attending may register here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ade64ab3-055f-41e2-be0a-0240419f9d23>. Questions about the event may be directed to the New York Association of Towns at (518)465-7933.

### **About the Association of Towns**

The New York Association of Towns is a statewide membership organization representing and serving town governments and supporting local elected officials. In 2025, a record 910 of the 933 total towns in New York were active members of the Association. Since 1933, NYAOT has provided advocacy, education, and resources to help local governments deliver efficient and effective services to their residents.



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