

“Terminator” oversees Region 5 truck inspections

During a recent voluntary truck inspection in Region 5 – where 32 carriers brought in 78 trucks to several Wallowa and Union County locations – a familiar celebrity was on hand. Across the street from the Enterprise truck inspection location, the likeness of legendary muscle man, former California Governor and *Terminator* star Arnold Schwarzenegger stared over his bulging bicep to keep a stony eye on the day’s activities. The eight-foot tall image of the iron pumping icon (a model for one of three bronze statues) appeared to “watch” as ODOT Motor Carrier employees crawled in, under and around dozens of big rigs.

Senior Motor Carrier Enforcement Officer Roxanne Grave and Compliance Specialist Harold Wolford of the La Grande Office, plus Compliance Specialists Andy Zikmund and Pete Garcia from the Farewell Bend Point of Entry office, inspected 27 trucks in Enterprise the first day and 27 vehicles the second day at Enterprise, Wallowa and La Grande locations. Their last day was spent in La Grande scrutinizing another 24 vehicles brought in by local companies.



Andy Zikmund inspects a truck's under-workings

32 Companies Benefit from Inspections

By the end of the program, 19 Wallowa County carriers had 45 trucks inspected and 13 Union County companies received free inspections for 33 rigs. The mobile inspection program, which was a regular feature in Region 5 several decades ago, re-started last year with great results. Many of the companies who participated in 2011 came back for the same service this year.



Trucks waiting to be inspected

“It doesn’t hurt to have a second set of eyes (inspect the vehicles),” said Bowman Trucking owner Kim Bowman. “It just keeps us on our toes.” Bowman used to participate in the voluntary inspection program when it was conducted years ago and is happy to see it going again.

Scotty Payne of Scotty J. Payne Trucking out of Elgin also appreciated the service the ODOT Motor Carrier team provided.

“For one thing, you get your sticker after the inspection,” Payne said. “I like when the DOT gets involved. I feel confident knowing I’ve got that sticker there and the truck has been inspected.”

“They’re (ODOT staff) a great bunch of folks, very helpful and we appreciate them coming down here and the opportunity to have our trucks inspected on site,” said Elwayne Henderson, owner of Henderson Trucking of Wallowa. “It’s a really great opportunity for everyone in Wallow County, especially since we are so remote.”

Bowman added, “It’s a win-win situation.”

They’ll Be Back

Because the voluntary truck inspection program is so popular, the Motor Carrier team is talking about holding more in the future. Garcia, who took photos of the statue in Enterprise agreed to participate, confirming in his best *Terminator* impression, “I’ll be back.”