SOUTHEASTERN Region

Issues & Trends

Trucking

- Trucking shortages are a problem across all industries, not just the forest industry;

- Many trucking contractors are now installing GPS tracking systems and dash cameras to better manage trucking efficiency and safety, and to fight off unwarranted truck crash lawsuits and insurance claims.

- In addition to state efforts to address various trucking issues, forest products companies, wood suppliers, and state associations are encouraged to support the TEAM Safe Trucking program financially and host TEAM trucking safety training sessions for trucking managers and drivers.

- Many insurance companies will not insure new or inexperienced drivers.

Supply and Demand

- It was a wet winter, but now many mills are at full inventory.

- Tariffs have negatively impacted pine log & lumber exports.

Labor

- New sawmills are coming online or existing ones are expanding--those facilities and other logging and forest products sectors are dealing with a shortage of both skilled and unskilled labor; sawmill expansion projects have been slowing down and other mill rebuilds have been going slower than planned due to labor shortages;