

# Heave ho!

**Hannah Sundermeyer** reports how Carter Heavy Equipment Transport used its new Aspen E Series trailer to haul transformers and other cargo.



**Carter Heavy Equipment Transport used its Aspen E-Series trailer to haul a 150,000-pound electrical transformer from Houston, TX to Saraland, AL.**

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina roared through the Gulf Coast region devastating almost everything in its wake. Much of southern Louisiana was destroyed and there became a monumental need for heavy construction equipment. At that time Louis Carter III owned Carter Dozer and Excavation Services, but after the massive hurricane struck, there was a need to transport equipment all over the Gulf region, and he saw the potential for starting his own heavy haul company.

The post-Katrina construction boom heightened competition within the industry and more than \$100 billion dollars in damages, creating an immediate need for excavation and other construction work. Carter was searching for a way to set himself apart.

He started Carter Heavy Equipment Transport in December 2007 and since that time the company has experienced rapid growth.

"I've always loved the big trucks and so I starting thinking about something different that I could do myself," said Carter, CEO of Carter Heavy Equipment Transport. The answer was simple. "I could move equipment. So I sold my dump trucks and excavators."

Carter Heavy Equipment Transport is located in Hammond, LA between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Starting with only a single unit and now owning and operating a fleet of seven, Carter quite literally grew his company from the ground up.

Carter Heavy Equipment Transport

focuses on moving construction equipment. This includes, but is not limited to pile drivers, cranes, drill rigs, transformers, dozers and excavators. The company is often hired to move large, over-dimensional equipment for industrial, marine, agricultural and construction clients.

## New Aspen E-Series

In a recent move, Carter Heavy Equipment Transport hauled an electrical transformer clocking in at 150,000 pounds from Houston, TX to Saraland, AL.

This haul required two escorts at the front and at the rear, utilizing a high pole on the front escort. The transformer was also incredibly tall at 16 feet and 125-feet long.

"This particular move was challenging because of the height and weight of the load," said Carter. "However because of my new trailer, I'm able to haul more weight in comparison to others."

Carter was referring to an Aspen E-Series trailer which is under the 80,000-pound limit, allowing the company to haul almost the weight of a 13-axle trailer while still only on 12 axles. This results in a more inexpensive move to and from jobsites.

"We chose the Aspen E-Series trailer/transporter for a number of reasons," said Carter. "First, we really connected with

Mark, Benji and all the guys at J and B Pavelka, the Aspen Trailer dealer. They've been excellent to deal with and the level of support that they have provided during and after the sale has been great. We really appreciate their attention to detail and their support of our organization and our needs has been superb."

## Low tare weight

Second, Carter said he was attracted to the Aspen E-Series attributes.

"We had heard about Aspen in the past and we've always been curious about the company, but during this sale and what's been proven to us owning the trailer, is the superior design, product quality and the durability that's built into the trailer," he said. "We really like the thought processes that went into building this trailer and the engineering is evident in many of the things that we usually take for granted."

One of the most important E-Series features is the low tare weight which translates into higher payloads, he said.

"The whole transporter is light in the right places and beefy in the right places to make for a light, good pulling trailer that maximizes our payloads," said Carter. "Other things include the user friendly bolt-on load securement which will allow us to customize our trailer in the future if we need it to be configured differently. We also like

## SITE REPORT TRANSPORT CARTER

the hydraulic removable gooseneck as the neck comes off and on easily in all situations and the hydraulic system is easy to use. It's very simple which helps get our guys on the road quicker with less hassle."

One of the big features that Carter pointed to is the Aspen Auto Shim booster design that can turn a less experienced driver into an experienced heavy haul guy.

"All the driver needs to do is make sure the deck is shimmed correctly and then it's a touch of a button and the booster takes care of itself using its computer-controlled hydraulic relief system to accommodate for any road issues along the way," said Carter.

Carter said the new trailer was essential to the success of his company, and sets his company apart from others in the industry.

According to Carter, all of their permitting is done in house. The company also has its own in-house pilot truck.

### Hauling a Grove

Another recent move for Carter Heavy Equipment Transport involved a 143,000



**Carter Heavy Equipment Transport hauled a 143,000-pound Grove RT9100 that needed to be moved from Louisiana to Texas over the course of two-and-a-half days, but due to a ramp clearance issue, it took a little longer.**

Grove RT9100 that needed to be moved from Louisiana to Texas over the course of two-and-a-half days.

However, what started as a short trip quickly evolved into a five-day trek.

This particular move turned tumultuous with everything from batteries on the fritz to wasps nests. Even with a permitted route approved by the city of Houston, Carter came across a ramp that his load couldn't fit under. As a result, traffic had to come to a halt and airbags

had to be deflated to allow the trailer to move under the ramp with about half an inch of clearance to spare.

Nearly a week later, the move was successful and Carter was back to work preparing for the next transport. In this fast-paced industry, you always have to be prepared for the unexpected and ready to react to just about anything that comes your way.

As Carter will attest, it's never just another day in the office. ■

# NUTS

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