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LEADING THE INTERMODAL EVOLUTION

DISPATCH NEWS

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*"All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king." – J.R.R. Tolkien*

About 380 miles north of our headquarters in South Gate, wildfires are once again blazing across the California landscape. The CZU Lightning Complex fire which began with a lightning strike on August 16, 2020 at this time remains centered in Santa Cruz County and is being battled by the brave firefighters that are trying to save lives and put out the flames. Our hearts and prayers go out to all of those affected by these devastating fires.

Along its path the fire swept through the oldest state park in California, Big Basin Redwoods State Park, home to a grove of old-growth redwoods some 2,000 years old and among the tallest living things on Earth. As the directors of the park arrived to survey the damage they wondered if these ancient warriors had finally succumbed to a force greater than any experienced in their history, one that included survival through the fiercest storms and floods.

To their amazement while the buildings and campground structures had been reduced to ash many of the redwoods still stood tall including the most magnificent named "Mother of the Forest" at 329 feet tall. The day after the fire had left, the morning sun rose and sent rays of sunshine streaming through the tree branches, followed by the return of the notoriously noisy blue Steller's jays and the red-topped acorn woodpeckers. The forest was brought back to life. Conservation Director Laura McLendon said that redwoods are meant to endure the blaze of a fire always carrying the scars of what they've seen on their trunks. With root systems that extend 50 feet down from the trunk and intertwine with the roots of other redwoods, these natural skyscrapers have built

a foundation that can survive the most extreme winds and floods. Those that do eventually fall become nurse trees with sprouts from which new redwoods grow and insects and plant life thrive. As it does after every event or interruption, she said, the forest simply resets.

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This is a concept well-known to CIE Manufacturing as we have also reset in 2020. Through the social, health, and economic crises that have gripped the world, CIEM has chosen not to fall but to grow even deeper roots. With our expansion into North American manufacturing we have reset our east and west coast facilities to accommodate new equipment and new processes to build quality products with shorter lead times. Our employees have learned new advanced skills and adopted new mindsets that will drive their career development and production plans forward, and we have reset our relationships with our suppliers to create a new chassis line to meet the ever-changing needs of intermodal customers.

With this new North American Pioneer Chassis project, CIE Manufacturing has joined with our employees and supplier partners to connect our roots and build a strong foundation that will continue to adapt and grow, providing the safest, highest quality products to the intermodal market to fulfill our vital responsibility to the transportation industry.

Truck Driver Appreciation Week September 13-18, 2020 is a time to honor and thank the true heroes of the transportation industry, the truck drivers. CIE Manufacturing will be showing our appreciation, please be sure to do the same!

DEEP ROOTS

