

Professional Drivers: Please Help Us



IN JANUARY 2000, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) was created to improve commercial vehicle safety on the highways.

Our charge is to cut the number of deaths resulting from commercial motor vehicle crashes.

OUR GOAL

Since more than half of these fatal crashes are considered the fault of other vehicles, FMCSA has initiated a major effort to educate drivers regarding the operating characteristics of large trucks and buses. This partnership effort is called "Share the Road Safely."

In addition to this educational initiative, FMCSA is working with State and local agencies to enforce traffic laws against drivers who create hazardous situations around large trucks and buses, and is promoting the use of advanced technologies to reduce commercial motor vehicle crashes.

YOUR ROLE

While the FMCSA believes these efforts will help to improve the current situation, we know that we can't do it alone.

We need your help in improving safety on the highway.

Every day you deal with the stress of heavy traffic, poor drivers, and long hours behind the wheel. You are the industry's emissary on the highway, and you have the opportunity to be the traditional "Knight of the Road."

PLEASE HELP US.



AS A PROFESSIONAL DRIVER, you may have millions of miles of safe driving experience. Often you may think you are sharing the road with 4-wheel vehicle drivers who seem to have no driving experience at all.

In too many cases, you may be right! Many commercial motor vehicle crashes occur due to errors in judgment by passenger car drivers operating around large trucks and buses. Unfortunately, when these crashes occur they reflect poorly on the motor carrier industry regardless of who caused the collision. We need to improve this situation together.



400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

www.sharetheroadsafely.org
www.fmcsa.dot.gov

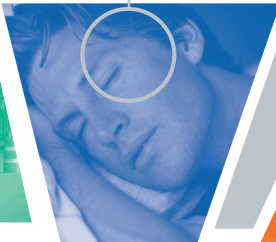


Consider these safety practices when you're out on the road.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Get plenty of rest before driving. Eat well and stay fit.

Driver fatigue and lack of attention can significantly increase your risk of a crash. Hours of service violations are serious and can threaten your livelihood or even your life. Stay healthy and well rested, or don't drive!



ALWAYS KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Always leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front of you.

In rear-end collisions, regardless of the situation, if you hit someone from behind, you are considered "at fault." Large trucks, given their mass, have much greater stopping distances than 4-wheelers. Take advantage of your driving height, and anticipate hard braking situations.

ALWAYS MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLE

It can save your life. Inspect your vehicle before each trip, and check your brakes regularly.

Brake defects are the most frequently cited out-of-service inspection violation. Learn how to inspect your brakes, identify safety defects, and get them repaired before risking your life, and the lives of others, on the highway.

SLOW DOWN IN WORK ZONES

Watch out for highway construction. Stay alert.

Almost one-fourth of fatal work zone crashes involve large trucks. Most of these crashes occur during the day. Take your time going through work zones. Give yourself plenty of room, and expect the unexpected.



ALWAYS DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

Avoid aggressive drivers and maintain a safe speed.

Two-thirds of all traffic fatalities may be caused by aggressive driving behaviors. Keep your distance and maintain a safe speed. The only thing excessive speed increases is your chance for a crash.



BE AWARE OF YOUR "NO-ZONE"

Other drivers may not be aware of the size of your blind spots.

One-third of all crashes between large trucks and cars take place in the No-Zone areas around a truck. Adjust your mirrors and be vigilant in watching out for vehicles in the No-Zone.



FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT

Buckle up for safety and vehicle control.

If you are in a crash, a seat belt will save your life and that of others. It will keep you in your seat and allow for you to maintain control of your truck. Increasing seat belt use is still the single most effective thing we can do to save lives and reduce injuries on our roadways.

ALWAYS WORK TO IMPROVE HIGHWAY SAFETY

On the highway, and through safety promotional events, be the professional!

Help stranded motorists. Notify traffic safety agencies of crashes, unsafe drivers, unsafe roadway conditions, and other situations that can lead to crashes. Join a "Highway Watch" program, if available in your State.