

For **Y**our **D**riving



Safety is a Controllable Expense

Safety is a controllable expense, and it starts with the proper attitude. Some folks have a false perception that safety is just a cost of doing business, and that large truck crashes come with the territory, but that perception is questionable. Crashes are devastating in terms of fatalities and injuries, financial costs, damaged reputations, the inability to attract and retain good drivers, and general goodwill in the community. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) statistics indicate:

- ✓ In 2005, there were 5,212 fatalities and 91,993 injuries from large truck crashes.
- ✓ The average cost of a large truck crash involving a fatality is \$3.6 million per crash.
- ✓ A crash with injuries costs almost \$200,000 per crash.
- ✓ The average cost of all large truck crashes is about \$91,000 per crash.

The good news is that truck crashes have declined over the past several years. The FMCSA indicated that during the period of 2006 through 2009 fatal crashes declined 32%, non-fatal crashes declined 24%, injury crashes declined 29%, and tow-away crashes declined 21%.

These positive trends did not occur by chance; some of the improvement was attributed to driver selection, driver training, scheduling routes, and management commitment to safety by monitoring driver performance and correcting at-risk behavior before an accident occurs. These initiatives may be painstaking in the short run, but your return on investment will be positive. It all starts by instilling the concept that safety is a controllable expense.

Produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

www.isri.org

www.isrisafety.org

comments/questions?

isrisafety@isri.org

February 7, 2012