

F or Y our D riving



Who Dies In Large Truck Crashes?

Data provided by The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety indicates that in 2010, 3,413 people died in crashes involving large trucks. Fourteen percent of these deaths were truck occupants, 72 percent were passenger vehicle occupants, and 13 percent were pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorcyclists. In fatal two-vehicle crashes involving a passenger vehicle and a large truck, 97 percent of the deaths were the occupants in the passenger vehicles. Large trucks were involved in 10 percent of all motor vehicle crash deaths and 23 percent of passenger vehicle occupant deaths in multiple-vehicle crashes.

What can you do to be a safer driver?

- **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.
- **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 watch out for drivers in the No-Zone
- **Always keep your distance.** In rear-end collisions, regardless of the situation, if you hit someone from behind, you are considered “at fault.” Take advantage of your driving height, and anticipate hard braking situations.
- **Always maintain your vehicle.** Inspect your vehicle before each trip, and check your brakes regularly. Brake defects are the most frequently cited out-of-service inspection violation.
- **Always drive defensively.** Avoid aggressive drivers and maintain a safe speed. Aggressive driving kills. Keep your distance and maintain a safe speed.
- **Always 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.

Produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

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November 20, 2012