

Title:

Tractor Trailer Accidents

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451

Summary:

Each year, there are approximately 500,000 accidents in the United States involving large trucks.

Keywords:

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Article Body:

Each year, there are approximately 500,000 accidents in the United States involving large trucks.

The fatal crash rate for trucks is 2.6 deaths per one hundred million miles traveled, a statistic that is significantly higher than for other modes of transportation.

The Federal government requires truck operators to have a commercial drivers license and undergo extensive training.

Many accidents are caused by truck driver fatigue. In a recent survey, 20 percent of truck drivers reported feeling fatigued while driving.

In 2003, US Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) implemented a new rule.

A complicated set of guidelines now governs how long drivers can stay on duty. The revised Hours of Service rule limits the amount of time a driver can spend on the road.

Short-haul truck drivers (those who routinely return to their place of dispatch after every shift) are exempt from the new rule.

The FMCSA estimates the new rule has the potential to prevent 75 fatalities and approximately 1,000 injuries each year.

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