



Truck Safety Basics

- Good Statistics Exist
- Bias Exists
- Statistics Must Be Allowed To Speak For Themselves
- Results Not Blame The Goal



Truck Safety Basics -- Statistics

- Trucks have lower crash rate than other vehicles – Trucks 2.1 crashes/million miles, Cars 3.1 crashes/million miles
- Trucks have higher fatality rate than other vehicles – Trucks 2.2/million miles, all other vehicles 1.4/million miles
- Trucks were involved in 12% of all fatal crashes



Truck Safety Basics -- Statistics

- In multi-vehicle fatal crashes, the non-truck driver is reported to contribute to incident 75% of the time
- 20% of fatal accidents involve vehicles hitting rear of trucks



Truck Safety Basics -- Factors

- Physics
- Familiarity
- Fatigue
- Substance Abuse



Truck Safety Basics -- Factors

- Physics – major factor in higher fatality rate, can't be changed
- Familiarity – More perceived than real, can be addressed and changed
- Fatigue – Factor in about 4.5% of fatal crashes, 92.2% of all fatigue crashes involve passenger car drivers



Truck Safety Basics -- Factors

- Substance Abuse – 1% of truck drivers in fatal crashes tested positive for alcohol
- 27% of car drivers involved in fatal crashes tested positive
- Drug data is similar



Truck Safety Basics -- Conclusions

- Can't change physics
- Can change other factors. Industry is working on them and needs to continue to work on them
- Statistical data shows that car drivers must be involved in solutions – can't lower truck fatality numbers much more without help from other motorists

Truck Safety Basics – Familiarity

Many motorists still do not understand the physics of and hazards around large trucks.

Education and repetition can make a significant difference in this aspect of truck related fatalities.





Source Material

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- NHTSA, Fatal Accident Reporting System, 1999
- University of Michigan Trucking Research Institute , various reports