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Truck Accident Statistics

By Michael Monheit, Esquire, Monheit Law, PC

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In 2003, there were 58,512 total vehicle accidents involved in fatal crashes in the U.S. (NCSA).

4,669 were large trucks involved in fatal truck accidents.

Large trucks are more likely to be involved in a fatal multi-vehicle crash than are passenger vehicles.

Most fatal truck accidents occurred in rural areas (68 percent) during the daytime (66 percent) and on weekdays (78 percent).

Only 1 percent of fatal truck accidents were DUI-related on the part of the truck driver compared to other types of fatal crashes. Higher DUI occurrences are 22 percent for drivers of passenger vehicles and light trucks and 29 percent for motorcyclists.

About 27 percent of all large truck drivers involved in fatal truck accidents had at least one prior speeding conviction compared to 19 percent of the passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes.

California had the most with 5,725 total fatal vehicle crashes but Texas had the most fatal truck accidents with 438.

Here's a breakdown of the top 5 states as to fatal truck accidents in 2003:

State	Total Fatal Vehicle Crashes	Fatal Truck Accidents
California	5,725	332
Texas	5,040	

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438
Florida
4,432
343
Georgia
2,277
208
Pennsylvania
2,233
213

Compared to a breakdown of the top 5 states as to fatal truck accidents in 2002:

State Total
Fatal Vehicle Crashes
Fatal Truck Accidents
California
5,544
346
Texas
5,039
401
Florida
4,431
351
Pennsylvania
2,198
174
Georgia
2,188
202

More truck accident statistics from FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System)

Large trucks accounted for 9 percent of the vehicles in fatal crashes, but only 4 percent of the vehicles involved in injury and property–damage–only crashes. Of the 4,898 large trucks involved in fatal crashes, 76 percent were combination trucks.

Regardless of crash severity, the majority of vehicles in single and two–vehicle crashes were going straight prior to the crash.

The majority of persons killed or injured in traffic crashes were drivers (65 percent), followed by passengers (31 percent), pedestrians (3 percent), and pedal cyclists (2 percent).

In 2003, the initial point of impact at time of collision happened 2,354 times (50 percent) in the front of

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vehicle; compared to 382 times on the left side, 188 times on the right side, and 720 times in the rear.

In 2003, 608 large trucks were involved in fatal truck accidents caused by rollovers.

Miscellaneous trucking revenue statistics

The truck driver makes 30.3 cents per mile. Average yearly income for a driver is \$32,000 a year. The average owner operator makes slightly more.

Total revenue estimates are \$255.5 billion. For hire or common carriers trucking companies generated revenue estimated at \$97.9 billion about \$18 billion more than air transportation. Private fleets generated revenue estimated at \$121 billion.

Truck operating ratio is estimated at 95.2. This means for every dollar in revenue the trucking company has a cost of 95.2 cents leaving a profit of 4.8 cents on every dollar.

The trucking industry contributes an estimate of \$21.4 billion to operate on U.S. roads and highways.

The trucking industry accounts for 12.8 percent of all the fuel purchased in the U.S. Automobiles and light vehicles account for 63 percent of fuel purchases.

Online Resources about Truck Accident Litigation

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Here is a list of helpful links related to truck accidents and the resources to research truck accident related data.

Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) Web-Based Encyclopedia

Comprehensive site offering a wealth of knowledge based on breakdown of truck related accidents, cause of truck accidents, and injuries/death categorized by state and year.

<http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), NHTSA is a federal agency for the prevention and control of motor vehicle and truck related death and injury. NHTSA's mission is to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce traffic-related health care and other economic costs. <http://www.nhtsa.gov>

Hotline to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Here's the handy page and toll-free number to file a vehicle safety defect report, learn about the process of car and truck recalls, and search the database of consumer complaints related to car and truck accidents.

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/hotline/>

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Child Passenger Safety Tips from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Buckle up for child passenger safety. Use this chart for the good, bad, and better options available in the marketplace today.

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/CPS/>

Statistics for Car Accidents

There were an estimated 6,356,000 car accidents in the US in 2000. Get the breakdown of how and why.

<http://www.car-accidents.com/pages/stats.html>

National Center for Statistics and Analysis

A division of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NCSA provides truck accidents and traffic safety reports, high profile cases, and data sheets.

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/AvailInf.html>

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Comprehensive site for all things related to transportation in the U.S.

<http://www.bts.gov/>

University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute Center for National Bus and Truck Statistics

Collects and analyzes truck and bus accidents and related travel data

<http://www.umtri.umich.edu/cntbs/>

Safety and Fitness Electric Records System (SAFERS)

A division of FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) -- SAFERS offers truck company safety data and related services to the industry and the public over the Internet.

<http://www.safersys.org/>

Legal Sources: Trucking Accidents

Materials provided courtesey of Jim Ronca, Esq. jronca@srklaw.com

Truck Accident Resources for Lawyers

Truck Accident Lawyers Across the USA

A list of personal injury law firms in the USA who handle complex tort cases.

State by State Law Firm List

Additional Articles about Truck Accidents and Safety

News and other articles about truck safety and truck accidents.

Additional Truck Articles

Latest Truck Accident News

Online truck accident news stories.

Related News: Truck Accidents

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Pennsylvania Driver and Vehicle Services
Everything you need to know about applying for a driver's license, titling, and registration in PA.
<http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/>

Online Resources about Truck Accident Litigation
Frequently Asked Truck Accident Questions
Heavy Truck Accidents and Unnecessary Deaths and Serious Injuries
Tractor Trailer Underride Accidents.
Types of Truck Accidents

Disaster Preparedness and Crime Protection Manual
The Gurubuster Doubler
The Ultimate Ad Tracking Tool
Start your Own Wedding Videography Business
62 Ways To Beat The Gas Pump Monster



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Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!