



Heavy Trucks and Accidents (adapted from the FMCSA)

Drivers of large trucks and other vehicles involved in truck crashes are ten times more likely to be the cause of the crash than other factors, such as weather, road conditions, and vehicle performance, according to a new study released by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

"This study makes it clear that we need to spend more time addressing driver behavior, as well as making sure trucks and buses are fit for the road," FMCSA Administrator Annette M. Sandberg said. "The multitude of data now available will allow us to analyze specific areas of behavior and work with our industry and safety partners to develop an agenda on driver safety that will improve commercial motor vehicle driver performance."



The study, conducted with the help of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, investigated a

national sample of fatal and injury crashes between April 2001 and December 2003 at 24 sites in 17 states. Each crash involved at least one large truck and resulted in at least one fatality or injury. The total sample of 967 crashes included 1,127 large trucks, 959 non-truck motor vehicles, 251 fatalities, and 1,408 injuries.

Action or inaction by the driver of either the truck or other vehicle was the critical reason for 88 percent of the crashes, according to the report.

The study concluded that crash investigators or law enforcement officials found that **driving too fast and fatigue** were important factors for both drivers in crashes between trucks and passenger vehicles. In these types of crashes, investigators cited fatigue as a factor twice as often for passenger vehicle drivers, and speeding more often for truck drivers.

The report also found that the use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs show up as a factor in a large number of crashes.

Alcohol Affects 15% of Workers

An estimated 15 percent of the U.S. workforce consumes alcohol on the job, has a drink before going to work or otherwise is under the influence of alcohol, according to a study by the University of Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions. That equates to some 19.2 million workers impaired during the workday via intoxication, withdrawal or hangover.

"Clear policies should be in place regarding alcohol impairment and impairment at work," wrote Doctor Michael Frone, principal investigator of the study. "But despite management's responsibility for the development and enforcement of such policies, managers report elevated rates of consuming alcohol during the workday, working under the influence of alcohol, and working with a hangover," he said.

The institute said that the study, the first of workplace alcohol use to utilize a representative sample of the U.S. workforce, surveyed 2,805 employed adults across the United States from January 2002 through June 2003. Young, single men figured prominently among those who were affected by alcohol, the results showed.

Drinking on the job, being under the influence or working with a hangover was more prevalent among men than women, more common among younger workers than older staff, and among unmarried workers than married workers, the study found. Coming into work with a hangover was the most common finding. The highest levels of alcohol use and impairment were in management, sales, catering and construction.

"Of all psychoactive substances with the potential to impair cognitive and behavioral performance, alcohol is the most widely used and misused substance in the general population and the workforce," Frone said. "The misuse of alcohol by employed adults is an important social policy issue with the potential to undermine employee productivity and safety," he added.

The institute said that 10.8 percent admitted they either drank at work, before work or turned up with a hangover but that it happened less than once a month, while 2.9 percent said it was a monthly occurrence and 1.65 percent said weekly.

2006 Dates:

January:

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February:

Child Passenger Safety Week

March:

Poison Prevention Week
Workplace Eye Safety Month
Save Your Vision Month

April:

Sports Eye Safety Month
Intl Building Safety Week
Work Zone Aware. Week
Playground Safety Week

May:

Clean Air Month
Melanoma Awareness Month
Electrical Safety Month
National EMS Week
Poison Prevention Week

June:

National Safety Month

July:

EYE INJURY PREV. MONTH

August:

Prepare Your Winter Safety Training!

September:

Farm Safety/Health Week

October:

Nat. Fire Prevention Week
Drive Safely Work Week
Radon Action Week

November:

Take advantage of the weather and do your classroom training!

December:

"3D Month" - National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month



Not All Hand Sanitizers Are Created Equally

Have you encouraged your employees to use hand sanitizers, or perhaps even provided bottles of the cleaner around your plant to reduce the spread of germs? An experiment at East Tennessee State University suggests that not all sanitizers are alike. A study published in the CDC journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases* found that at least one brand sold commercially, and a number of formulas for homemade sanitizers available on the Internet, don't contain the 60% ethanol (alcohol) concentration needed to kill bacteria.

A letter accompanying the study described how a product with 40% ethanol as the active ingredient was purchased at a retail store. "Despite a label claim of reducing 'germs and harmful bacteria' by 99.9%, we observed an apparent increase in the concentration of bacterial in handprints impressed on agar plates after cleaning." The researchers conducted additional formal hand-washing trials with five products and found that concentrations under 60% did not fight germs.

Their conclusion: "Consumers and employers should be alerted to check the alcohol concentration in hand sanitizers because substandard products may be marketed to the public."

Apple® Ipod® TV & Print Commercials For Safety?

The Montana State Fund (MSF) is using Apple's ads for the iPod as a model for a new safety awareness campaign for young workers. The campaign uses the messages *iSlip*, *iCrash*, *iBurn*, and *iCut* to raise safety awareness among younger workers. The campaign's ads will appear in statewide movie theaters, college and high school newspapers, and on billboards. MSF also launched a website that includes a safety kit for employers – www.safetyrocks.us.

MSF says that nearly 1,000 workers who are aged 16-24 are injured on the job each year in the state.

"This is the time of year when young people are starting to look for summer jobs and we hope this promotion will make them more aware of the importance of workplace safety," says Laurence Hubbard, president and chief executive officer of Montana State Fund.

"We want them to know they have the right to work in a safe environment and how to take responsibility for their own safety actions."

The campaign also includes a drawing for 6 iPods for Montana residents who submit entries. The state legislature created MSF in 1990. It is the state's largest workers' compensation insurance company.

Again, the referenced online website for the Safety Rocks is: www.safetyrocks.us.

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Cambridge Risk Control would like to emphasize the great idea that the MSF has created. Most any ideas that advertise, promote or otherwise "get the word out" about safety issues is a good thing. What do you do at your work that helps out the safety effort? Send me an email and let me know – jody.warner@cambridge-na.com.

Safety Resource Center

It's God To Know:

Get CPR and First Aid Training!

Not only will CPR and First Aid Training help make the work environment more safe and secure. It will also benefit the employee population when they go home each and every day by making them ready for emergencies there as well.

www.americanheart.org/cpr
www.redcross.org

Upcoming Training

**The Mid-American
Safety, Health &
Environmental
Conference &
Exposition**

May 8-12, 2006
Tan Tar A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO

www.safetycouncilmoks.com
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"I have a question!"

**"Jody, what does the "CFPS"
next to your name indicate?"**
T.S. in LA

CFPS is the accepted acronym for "Certified Fire Protection Specialist".

The CFPS designation is coordinated by the National Fire Protection Association and is available to those individuals that work in the area of fire protection, fire prevention and fire suppression.

www.nfpa.org for more information.