Lessons learned from NTSB crash investigations

Drivers:

▲ Minimize all distractions and follow federal regulations about cell phone use.

▲ Follow posted speed limits; drive even slower in bad weather.

▲ Stay healthy! Take breaks and exercise, manage fatigue, and avoid driving while taking impairing medications — prescription and over-the-counter.

▲ Wear seatbelts. And ensure your passengers do, too!

▲ Drive sober — never get behind the wheel while impaired by alcohol or other drugs.

Owners/Managers:

▲ Implement a fatigue management program based on the North American Fatigue Management Program.

▲ Purchase trucks equipped with underride protection, advanced speed-limiting technologies, collision avoidance systems; then train drivers and mechanics on their use and maintenance.

▲ Establish policies to address driver medical fitness for duty.

5,005

Number of persons killed in crashes involving large trucks in 2019—an increase of 2% since 2018.*

More work must be done to ensure trucks and truckers operate safely!

*Source: FMCSA, October 2021
Let’s all work together to make commercial trucking even safer!

Commercial trucking is integral to our economy and our American way of life. However, large trucks introduce a disproportionate hazard to passenger vehicle occupants involved in a crash due to their sheer size, weight, and physical properties.

The NTSB’s 2021–2022 Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements has identified five highway safety items — speeding, impairment, distraction, the safe system approach, and collision avoidance technologies — for the trucking industry to address to prevent deaths and serious injuries on our roads. Improving the safety of truck operations will not only save lives, but increase the public’s confidence in this vital and visible industry.

We’re safer together!

The NTSB is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, highways and transit, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable cause of the accidents we investigate and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents.