

Safe Trucking

Through Work Zones



THE NUMBERS

Source: 2016 - 2018 FARS Data
(Fatality Analysis Reporting System)

206

Number of fatal work zone crashes each year in the U.S. that involve large trucks (gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds)

Every 2 Days

How often a fatal work zone crash involving a large truck occurs in the U.S.

50

Percent of fatal work zone crashes on rural interstates that involve large trucks.

20

Percent of fatal pedestrian crashes in work zones that involve large trucks.

47

Percent of fatal truck-involved work zone crashes where the truck hits something or someone in front of it.

17

Percent of fatal truck-involved work zone crashes where driver distraction was a factor.



Stopping takes space and time.

Depending how fast a truck is traveling, it can take more than the length of a football field to stop, even in the best conditions (good tires and dry pavement). At 65 mph, the stop will take more than 7 seconds to complete.



Source: Computed from data documented in National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Report DOT HS 811 488, June 2011.

Stopping distances can be even greater if:

- it is raining or snowing,
- tires or brakes are worn,
- there is dirt or gravel on the road,
- you carry a heavy load,
- you carry a liquid load (especially when the tank is not completely full), or
- you travel downhill.

Be aware and expect the unexpected!

Where and Why Do Large Truck Crashes in Work Zones Most Commonly Occur?

Rear-End Collisions

Where

- Freeways and interstates
- 2-lane highways

Why

- Drivers not aware or prepared for stopped or slowed traffic in front of them



Head-On Collisions

Where

- 2-lane highways

Why

- Drivers crossing centerline at night
- Drivers swerving to avoid objects and into oncoming traffic



Right-Angle Collisions

Where

- Non-freeway multi-lane roads

Why

- Drivers pulling out of or turning left into work spaces, intersections, and driveways without enough of a gap in traffic



Sideswipe Collisions

Where

- Freeways and interstates
- Other multi-lane roadways

Why

- Drivers not checking for vehicles in their blind spots while attempting to merge out of a closed lane and into an open lane



Truck Collisions with Objects

Where

- Non-freeway multi-lane roads

Why

- Drivers traveling too fast to negotiate the work zone



Work zones can have narrowed lanes and shoulders as well as disruptions such as slowing and stopped traffic, temporary lane closures, detours, flaggers and law enforcement officers directing traffic, work vehicles entering and exiting the work space, and workers walking around. These can change from day to day - and create many hazards for large trucks.

Reduce your chance of a work zone crash.

- Pay attention to work zone signs.
- Leave enough space between you and the motorist in front of you.
- Be prepared to stop or slow unexpectedly.
- Expect to stop when you see a **FLAGGER AHEAD** sign.
- If stopped or slowed in a traffic queue, consider turning on your flashers to warn traffic coming up behind you.
- Watch for traffic and workers going into or out of the work zone.
- Get into the open lane as soon as possible at lane closures.
- Be aware of motorists racing to get ahead of you or trying to turn in front of you at the last second.
- Use alternative routes to avoid work zones whenever feasible.

ARTBA Work Zone Safety Consortium

www.workzonesafety.org

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