

# CRASHES



“Every accident in which a driver is involved shall be considered preventable unless there was no action, which the driver could have reasonably taken to avoid the accident and that, his actions in no way contributed to the occurrence of the accident. The driver must drive in such a way that he commits no errors himself and so control his vehicle to make due allowance for the condition of the road, the weather or the traffic, and so that mistakes of other drivers do not involve him in any accident.” –National Safety Council.

As a truck driver you have to be professional and decrease your chances of an accident. A CDL driver is supposed to be so attentive as to foresee any possible situation that could involve him in an accident and act accordingly in order to avoid it. Truckers are generally seated with their eyes seven feet above the road, and usually have a much higher vantage point than commuter cars.

The ATRI (American transportation research institute) summarized according to data analyzed for several years that if a driver had certain moving violations the crash likelihood increased dramatically. According to this data, the top violations that increase the likelihood of a crash are:

- Failure to use / improper signal
- A past crash
- Improper passing violation
- Improper turn
- Improper / erratic lane change
- Failure to obey traffic sign
- Speeding more than 15 mph over speed limit

Since driver behavior is a critical component of crash risk, it's especially important that as a truck driver you learn to drive defensively and never let emotions take over your driving techniques. Even if you've had a frustrating day, you're in a hurry or you've had problems at home, don't drive aggressively, keep your speed under control and be attentive.

