

Safer Trucking Newsletter

MARCH 2022

In This Issue

Regulatory Update

IST Resources

Safer Trucking Facts

Bereavement Update

Our Mission

Educate the public about research-based solutions to reduce the frequency and severity of truck crashes in the U.S., and

Collaborate with all stakeholders to make trucking safer,

Provide resources to survivors and families of victims after a truck crash.



Regulatory Update

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Removes Requirement for Drivers to Report Annual Violations

A new rule from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will no longer require commercial drivers to provide previous traffic violations to their employers on an annual basis. The FMCSA determined that this requirement was “duplicative” as motor carriers are currently required to make an annual inquiry to obtain the motor vehicle record for each driver it employs from every state in which the driver holds or has held a commercial motor vehicle operator’s license or permit in the past year. The new rule will take effect May 8, 2022 and can be found [here](#).

FMCSA Increases Windshield Area for Vehicle Safety Technology; Expands List of Safety Technologies that Qualify

The FMCSA released a final rule that will take effect May 6, 2022, that would expand the area on the interior of a commercial motor vehicle windshield where certain safety technology devices can be mounted. Currently, devices with vehicle safety technologies must be mounted no more than 4 inches below the upper edge of the area swept by the windshield. This change will increase the allowable area to 8.5 inches. Additionally, the definition of vehicle safety technology (see 49 CFR 393.5) was updated to also include braking warning systems, braking assist systems, driver camera systems, attention assist warning, GPS equipment, and traffic sign recognition. Vehicle safety technology includes systems and devices that contain cameras, lidar, radar, sensors and/or video. The final rule can be found [here](#).

Legislative Update

Senator Gillibrand and Rep. Steve Cohen Lead Bicameral Letter to Department of Transportation on Underride Provisions Enacted in Infrastructure Package

Senator Gillibrand and Rep. Steve Cohen recently sent a letter, along with 25 other Members of Congress, urging the Department of Transportation to swiftly execute provisions in the bipartisan Infrastructure package to address preventable deaths and injuries created by truck underride crashes. To read the letter please click [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who reached out to their Senators and Representative to sign on to this effort. Your voices made a difference and will help make trucking safer!

2020 Fatal Truck Crash Data

New data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) shows that truck crash deaths and injuries remain unconscionably high, with nearly 5,000 people dying in large truck crashes throughout the United States. Over the next few newsletters, IST will be providing in-depth analysis of this data. If there is something you would like us to focus on, please let us know.

4,965

TRUCK CRASH FATALITIES IN 2020

TRUCK CRASH DEATHS INCREASED

31%

FROM 2011 TO 2020

3,512

OCCUPANTS OF OTHER VEHICLES

514

PEDESTRIANS

84

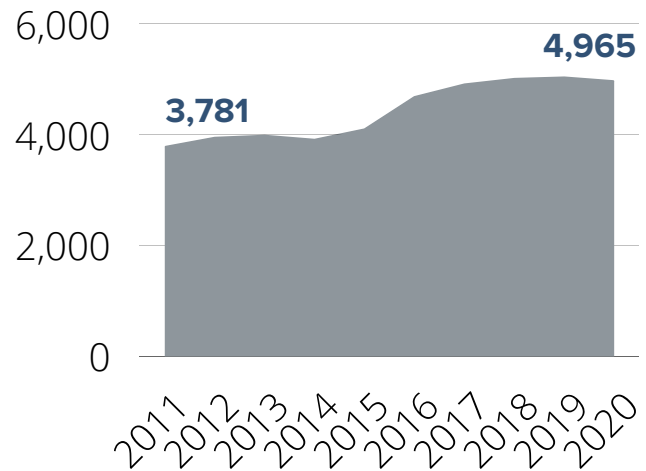
BICYCLISTS

202

CHILDREN

831

TRUCK OCCUPANT DEATHS



Questions

If you have questions about the 2020 FARS data, please reach out to the Institute for Safer Trucking. Is there a truck safety solution that you would like to learn more about? If so, let us know!

Harry Adler, Principal
 hadler@safetrucking.org
 845.558.1489

IST Resources

Memorials and Survivor Stories

The Institute for Safer Trucking recently published an online space for memorials and survivors' stories. Please let us know if you are interested in creating a page. Each page comes with a unique link and can include pictures, videos, and links to other websites.

Contact Jen Walsh (jwalsh@safertrucking.org) to schedule a time to set up a page. The memorials can be found at safertrucking.org/remember.

Monthly Meetups

The Monthly Meetups can provide you with a space to share your story and connect with others who have survived and/or lost a loved one in a large truck crash.

These Monthly Meetups have included past guest speakers such as:

- Former Acting Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), the federal agency responsible for overseeing truck safety in the U.S.,
- A bereavement specialist who focused on coping with grief during the holidays,
- Survivor and family advocates who have committed time and effort to enact changes that make our roads safer.

Contact Jen Walsh at jwalsh@safertrucking.org for more information

Bereavement Update

The Chattanooga: Bereavement Leave Is Common Sense

An op-ed in the Chattanooga, recently highlighted an effort in Tennessee to require each local board of education to adopt a bereavement leave policy that authorizes an employee three days of bereavement leave for the death of a member of the employee's immediate family.

Bereavement leave refers to the time off granted to employees who have recently experienced the death of a loved one. Taking bereavement leave does not count toward other forms of scheduled leave.

According to Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) in 2018, the percentage of businesses offering paid bereavement leave currently stands at almost 90%. Whereas most districts may already offer some form of bereavement leave, this legislation offers clarity, consistency, and direction to provide a guideline that can be replicated statewide. In a mobile workforce such as education, this is much needed.

To read the full op-ed, please click [here](#).

If there are other articles on this topic that you found helpful, please share them with us so we can post them in our Facebook group. Please send articles to Jen Walsh at jwalsh@safertrucking.org.

Contact Us!

Phone: 202.669.0896

Website: www.safertrucking.org

Address: 2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW,
Suite 7000, Washington, DC 20006