

Safer Trucking Newsletter

SUMMER 2023

In This Issue

IST Updates Data Visualization Tool

Regulatory Update: AEB Public Comment Period Closed

Legislative Update: Sign Letter Opposing Broker Liability Bills

Memorial: Nate Clark

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.



IST Updates Data Visualization Tool

As part of our effort to enhance road safety and shed light on the alarming issue of fatal truck crashes in the United States, the Institute for Safer Trucking has unveiled its latest update to its crash data visualization tool. The tool, which now includes Federal Accident Reporting (FARs) data from 2021, offers a comprehensive and up-to-date perspective on the state of trucking safety in the country.

Fatal truck crashes have long been a cause for concern, impacting not only the trucking industry but also the safety of all road users. With the Institute for Safer Trucking's updated tool, anyone can access valuable insights into the factors contributing to these incidents and better understand the trends and patterns over time.

By utilizing this tool, concerned citizens, policymakers, industry professionals, and safety advocates can access a wealth of information. From identifying high-risk areas and times to uncovering whether a crash was coded as involving underride, the data visualization tool empowers users to make informed decisions and implement measures to enhance road safety.



Year
2021

State
All

Crash Type
All

Vehicles Involved
All

People Involved
All

Speed Limit
All

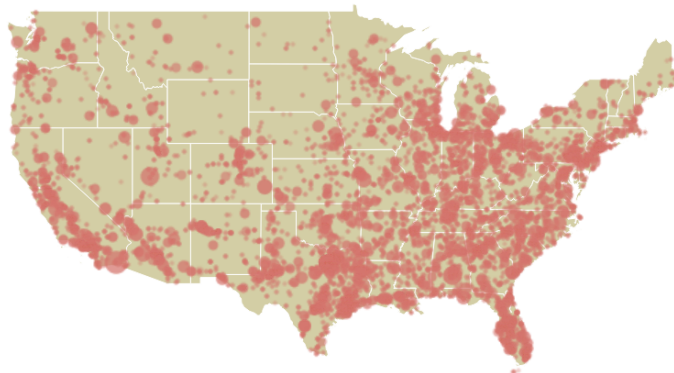
Highlight Case No.
Highlight St Case

Highlight DOT No.
Highlight DOT No.

Each dot marks a crash location.

Dot size represents number of resulting deaths.

Note: single-vehicle crashes can involve pedestrians or cyclists.



5,788 Total Deaths

Large Trucks	856 Driver	152 Occupant
Other Vehicles	3,237 Driver	912 Occupant
Non-Vehicle	549 Pedestrian	66 Pedalcyclist
	16 Other/Unknown NonOccupants	

Deaths by Crash Type

1,095 Single Vehicle
3,613 Two Vehicle
1,080 More Than Two Vehicle

Deaths by Underride

469 Underride Involved
5,319 No Underride

Deaths by Speed Limit

112 5 - 25mph
492 30 - 40mph
681 45 - 50mph
1,864 55 - 60mph
1,431 65 - 70mph
352 75mph and Over
62 No Limit
794 Not Reported or Unknown

Visit their website, www.safertrucking.org, today and be part of the solution to reduce fatal truck crashes in the United States. Your engagement can make a significant difference in saving lives and preventing tragedies on our highways.

Memorial: Nate Clark

About Nate Clark

Nate was born April 28th, 1994. He lived with his dad, Todd, mom, Heather and younger sister, Halle, in Canton, OH until the family moved to North Carolina when Nate and Halle were in middle school.

Nate was an old soul from childhood. In more than one parent/teacher conference the teacher mentioned he was like a little old man. He was an easy-going, awesome kid. He was a rule follower and loved a schedule and sticking to it. He was a well-rounded student that enjoyed participating in activities as well. Nate played many sports as a child, but golf became his passion from an early age when he became involved at First Tee.

Nate graduated from Clemson University in 2016 with a dual degree in Pro Golf Management and Business Administration. Throughout his time at Clemson, Nate held internships at various golf courses around the country, all of which he loved and appreciated. His last semester led to an opportunity to connect with Evolve Golf in Wilmington, NC. This internship would lead to his full-time job, doing what he loved. Nate was able to combine his love of golf and the business side of course management to grow the company significantly during his time there.

Nate remained in Wilmington, NC after graduation and had an incredible group of friends. He loved his weekends at Wrightsville Beach on a boat and of course, on a golf course.

With Nate and Halle both graduating college and settling into their careers, Todd and Heather decided to take a coaching opportunity presented to Todd in Buffalo, NY. Heather took a break from teaching, and they settled in. But it didn't take too long, just 4 short years, when in March of 2020 they decided that they had been away from the kids long enough and decided to move back to North Carolina to be closer to their family.

Crash Description

On December 7, 2021, Nate was driving a rented 2021 Toyota Camry home from a work trip in Georgia. While traveling on I 95 through Florence County, South Carolina, traffic began to slow down ahead of Nate until he came to a complete stop behind a passenger van and a tractor trailer. While waiting for the congestion to clear, another tractor-trailer failed to realize that traffic was stopped ahead and slammed into the rear of Nate's vehicle. Nate's vehicle was pushed into the passenger vehicle in front of him and then both Nate and the other driver were then slammed into the rear of the tractor-trailer in front of them. Both Nate and the driver of the other passenger vehicle died at the scene as a result of injuries suffered in the crash.

Link to Memorial Page: <https://www.safertrucking.org/remember/nathanael-clark>

Contact Us

Phone: 202.669.0896 | **Website:** www.safertrucking.org | **Address:** 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006

Memorial: Nate Clark

Life After the Crash

Nate's family did not learn about the crash until the next day. The connection was finally made through the rental car company of the car that Nate was driving.

Nate's loss is felt deeply by his friends, golf community, and his family. There were over 300 people in attendance at Nates memorial service, an incredible testament to how many lives he had touched. The Nate Clark Memorial Golf Tournament was set up by Evolve Golf and others to raise money for scholarships for young people interested in pursuing a career like Nate's. The first tournament raised over \$50,000 in honor of Nate and all the work that he did. It was an amazing day for his family to volunteer and see so many support Nate and share stories of their time spent with him.



Nate combined his love of golf and people and was a mentor with First Tee of Greater Wilmington. Most importantly, Nate loved the Lord and had a relationship with Jesus. All that Nate was on Earth was wonderful and his family feels his absence on Earth so heavily.

The trucking company that caused Nate's crash only had only \$1 Million in coverage. That \$1 million had to be divided by both wrongful death claimants as well as 3 property damage claimants.

[Link to Memorial Page: https://www.safertrucking.org/remember/nathanael-clark](https://www.safertrucking.org/remember/nathanael-clark)

Contact Us

Phone: 202.669.0896 | **Website:** www.safertrucking.org | **Address:** 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006

Regulatory Update

Department of Transportation Public Comment Period Closed on NPRM for Automatic Emergency Braking

The Department of Transportation and its agencies accepted public comment on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on requiring side underride guards on trailers and semi-trailers. We thank everyone who submitted a public comment. Your input can help shape the final guidance and maximize efficiency.

Notable Comments

- **Institute for Safer Trucking**
- **American Trucking Associations**
- **Truck and Engine Manufacturers**
- **Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)**

Legislative Update

Sign onto Letter from IST Opposing Legislation to Shield Shippers and Brokers

H.R. 915 and S. 2426, the Motor Carrier Safety Selection Standard Act, were purposely named and defined to mislead the public. Instead of improving safety, these bills' true purpose is to protect brokers from lawsuits if they hire unsafe motor carriers that are involved in truck crashes.

The three requirements in this bill set a standard for shippers and brokers at such an inadequate threshold that it would diminish accountability throughout the supply chain and create a race to the bottom.

Because such language would protect shippers and brokers from being sued if the motor carrier meets the three criteria, it would incentivize them to rely on insufficient information to select the cheapest motor carriers who may sacrifice safety to lower their operating costs.

Visit the Institute for Safer Trucking's website to contact your lawmaker to learn more about efforts to shield shippers and brokers from liability.

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