

# Traffic Safety



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## Out-of-service violations decline in annual 'Roadcheck' campaign

The rate of commercial motor vehicles placed out of service during an annual enforcement and safety outreach campaign has fallen for the second year in a row.

More than 70,000 truck and bus inspections were conducted June 3-5 as part of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's International Roadcheck 2014. Inspectors from CVSA and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration participated in this year's event at about 2,500 locations in North America.

"The inspections conducted during the three-day International Roadcheck event are the same types of inspections conducted every day by hard-working CVSA-certified inspectors," CVSA President and New York State Police Sgt. Thomas Fuller said in a press release. "International Roadcheck provides the opportunity to promote safety improvement efforts and accomplishments that enforcement and industry achieve every day."



Members of law enforcement conduct inspections during Roadcheck on June 3, 2014, in Landover, MD.

Of the vehicles inspected during this year's campaign, 18.7 percent were issued out-of-service violations – down from 20.6 percent in 2013 and 20.9 percent in 2012.

The top three vehicle-related out-of-service violations were:

- Brake system: 29.5 percent
- Brake adjustment: 16.7 percent
- Tires/wheels: 13.8 percent

The rate of drivers with out-of-service violations increased slightly from the previous year, from 4.3 percent in 2013 to 4.8 percent.

### Driver checklist

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance offers a checklist of driver and vehicle safety tips. The advice includes:

- Buckling up
- Avoiding or minimizing distractions, including cell phone use and eating
- Getting enough sleep
- Checking your vehicle's systems to ensure they are working properly, including brakes, lighting and coupling devices

Read the full checklist at <http://bit.ly/1y7fBRZ>.

The top three driver out-of-service violations were:

- Hours of service: 46.5 percent
- False logs: 13.7 percent
- Disqualified: 12.7 percent

Most of the 73,475 total inspections conducted over the three days were North American Standard Level I Inspections. These types of inspections are considered by CVSA to be the most thorough and entail looking at, during a 37-step procedure, both the driver's record of duty status and the safety of the vehicle.

Special emphasis was placed on compliance with regulations regarding the transportation of hazardous materials or dangerous goods, with such inspections accounting for nearly 8 percent of the campaign's total inspections.

The top three hazardous materials out-of-service violations were:

- Loading: 32.0 percent
- Shipping papers: 21.1 percent
- Placards: 20.8 percent

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Disparities in enforcement cloud carriers' true performance: ATRI

ARLINGTON, VA – Enforcement of commercial motor vehicle safety rules differs by state, concealing the true safety record of carriers, according to a report from the American Transportation Research Institute.

When a carrier's safety performance is obscured, the carrier could be labeled as unsafe, or an unsafe carrier could be missed, the July report concluded.



ATRI, the research arm of the American Trucking Associations, collected data from seven motor carriers and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Safety Measurement System to examine different safety priorities in FMCSA's Compliance, Safety, Accountability program.

The institute found that SMS scores changed when disparities in state enforcement were eliminated. Scores increased as high as 12.2 points and decreased as low as 17.7 points for the four Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories that ATRI studied.

Data also showed carriers' violation rates often fluctuate across states. For example, a carrier logged nearly 7 percent of its annual vehicle miles traveled in one state, but received more than 32 percent of its "Unsafe Driving" violation points in that state. If state enforcement did not vary much or violations represented

VMT exposure, a carrier's VMT would more closely resemble its violation rates in any state, according to the report.

## Truck, bus coalition wants FMCSA to pull safety scores

ARLINGTON, VA – A coalition of transportation groups is asking the Department of Transportation to direct the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to remove motor carrier safety scores from public view, saying research has shown the data is unreliable.

In a letter sent Aug. 22 to Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, the coalition also asked DOT to advise FMCSA to place a greater importance on improving the Compliance, Safety, Accountability program.

The letter cites a Feb. 3 Government Accountability Office report that identified methodology problems and concluded data was insufficient for CSA's Safety Measurement System scores. The audit found "FMCSA lacks sufficient safety performance information to reliably compare" most active carriers with other carriers.

For example, more than 70 percent of active motor carriers were not given a score because they did not have sufficient violation data, the letter states. GAO also found that FMCSA labeled many carriers with high scores as "high risk," yet those carriers were not involved in crashes later.

## Michigan DOT begins project to help truckers find safe parking

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Department of Transportation has launched a communication system intended to help truckers find available parking along one of the region's busiest corridors.

Through the system, truckers can access real-time information on parking availability on updated roadside signs, MDOT's "Mi Drive" traffic information website, the Truck Smart Parking Services website and smartphone applications. A fleet of trucks also will be equipped with on-board connected vehicle equipment as part of the program.

According to MDOT, the stretch of Interstate 94 through the southwest part of the state between Detroit and Chicago is one of the Midwest's busiest highways for commercial trucking. Trucks comprise 23 percent to 30 percent of all traffic in the corridor, MDOT said.

The volume of traffic makes truck parking a significant safety concern. Trucks often park on entrance and exit ramps along the interstate and at rest areas, MDOT said. Meanwhile, many truck parking spaces at private parking facilities are underused.

Additionally, MDOT said in a press release that driver distraction was a critical focus of designing the system.

Watch a video about the communication system at <http://bit.ly/1uFWMQR>.

Traffic Safety

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# STATISTICS

## July traffic deaths up 4 percent

By Kevin T. Fearn

Motor vehicle deaths in July totaled 3,220, up 4 percent from the July 2013 total.

Medically consulted motor vehicle injuries through July are estimated to be about 2.1 million, a decrease of 1 percent from 2013. Medically consulted injuries are not comparable to previous disabling injury estimates.

The cost of motor vehicle collisions through July is estimated to be about \$148.3 billion, a decrease of 1 percent from 2013. The costs include wage and productivity losses, medical expenses, administrative expenses, employer costs, and vehicle damage.

The estimated annual population death rate is 11.0 deaths per 100,000 population, a decrease of 1 percent from the preliminary 2013 rate of 11.1. The estimated annual mileage death rate is 1.2 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, unchanged from the preliminary 2013 rate.

### Notes to table

Deaths are reported by state traffic authorities. All figures are preliminary. To ensure proper comparisons, 2012 and 2013 figures cover the same reporting period as those for 2014.

States shown in color had fewer deaths in 2014 than they did in 2013 for the same reporting period.

## STATE MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS, CHANGES AND RATES UNITED STATES, SEVEN MONTHS, 2012-2014

STATE	NO. OF MONTHS	DEATHS IDENTICAL PERIODS			PERCENT CHANGES	
		2014	2013	2012	2013 TO 2014	2012 TO 2014
TOTAL U.S.	7	19,510	19,960	21,100	-2%	-8%
Alabama	7	472	484	487	-2%	-3%
Alaska	7	39	31	27	26%	44%
Arizona	7	422	473	483	-11%	-13%
Arkansas	7	253	283	319	-11%	-21%
California	6	1,302	1,471	1,414	-11%	-8%
Colorado	7	265	253	247	5%	7%
Connecticut	6	119	116	106	3%	12%
Delaware	7	77	56	55	38%	40%
District of Columbia	7	15	22	11	-32%	36%
Florida	7	1,282	1,328	1,488	-3%	-14%
Georgia	7	633	664	656	-5%	-4%
Hawaii	6	54	61	58	-11%	-7%
Idaho	7	106	109	109	-3%	-3%
Illinois	7	498	562	559	-11%	-11%
Indiana	7	368	388	452	-5%	-19%
Iowa	7	162	163	203	-1%	-20%
Kansas	7	227	187	219	21%	4%
Kentucky	7	359	366	434	-2%	-17%
Louisiana	6	275	321	346	-14%	-21%
Maine	6	60	53	76	13%	-21%
Maryland	7	218	259	275	-16%	-21%
Massachusetts	5	114	92	146	24%	-22%
Michigan	6	407	380	421	7%	-3%
Minnesota	7	189	208	183	-9%	3%
Mississippi	7	319	281	277	14%	15%
Missouri	7	419	397	477	6%	-12%
Montana	7	106	120	117	-12%	-9%
Nebraska	7	129	124	109	4%	18%
Nevada	7	167	149	152	12%	10%
New Hampshire	7	49	62	50	-21%	-2%
New Jersey	7	316	291	329	9%	-4%
New Mexico	5	133	120	158	11%	-16%
New York	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Carolina	7	612	703	690	-13%	-11%
North Dakota	7	59	75	81	-21%	-27%
Ohio	7	528	530	670	-*%	-21%
Oklahoma	7	380	330	350	15%	9%
Oregon	7	169	179	170	-6%	-1%
Pennsylvania	7	640	662	745	-3%	-14%
Rhode Island	7	27	31	43	-13%	-37%
South Carolina	7	428	408	480	5%	-11%
South Dakota	7	80	60	61	33%	31%
Tennessee	7	541	554	584	-2%	-7%
Texas	7	1,952	1,953	1,848	-*%	6%
Utah	7	149	110	112	35%	33%
Vermont	7	25	36	48	-31%	-48%
Virginia	7	373	388	435	-4%	-14%
Washington	6	225	191	193	18%	17%
West Virginia	7	132	185	199	-29%	-34%
Wisconsin	7	251	285	339	-12%	-26%
Wyoming	7	83	54	69	54%	20%

\*Less than 0.5%

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## DRIVING TIPS

# Share the road safely with motorcyclists

Motorcycles are the most vulnerable vehicles on the road, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. This is because motorcyclists do not have safety belts and can easily be ejected during a crash, significantly increasing the likelihood of a severe injury. Motorcycles also are smaller than many other vehicles with which trucks share the road, which means they are more likely to be lost in a truck driver's blind spots – or “no-zones.”

The California Department of Motor Vehicles provides the following tips to truck drivers for safely sharing the roads with motorcyclists:

- Communicate your intended movements. Tap the horn lightly if you intend to pass a motorcyclist to help prevent him or her from switching lanes in front of you. At night, you can quickly switch the lights from low to high beam and back again when it is legal to do so.
- Monitor the motorcyclist's body movements for clues about intended maneuvers. A motorcyclist who is checking



over his or her shoulder may be about to change lanes.

- Learn to use your mirrors correctly so you can spot motorcycles in your side blind spots. Check your left and right mirrors often while driving, and do not look at any one mirror for too long. Remember that for many convex side mirrors, objects may appear smaller and farther away than they actually are.
- Do not allow a motorcycle into your front blind spot, as you will not likely be able to tell when it is stopping and be able to react in time.

For more information on sharing the road safely with other vehicles, visit FMCSA's Share the Road Safely campaign at <http://1.usa.gov/1m65VIE>.