

2. Enhance the officer's awareness of the Commercial Driver's License Law and Georgia Traffic Law which relates to commercial vehicles and drivers.
3. Allow an opportunity to have a state wide effort in reducing the number of fatalities, injuries and crashes involving commercial vehicles in Georgia.

For information regarding the "Introduction to Commercial Motor Vehicles" course, contact your regional police academy.

To arrange for departmental training (a minimum of 15 officers), contact the Georgia Department of Public Safety, Motor Carrier Compliance Division.



Safety Message from Project P.I.E.
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Introduction to Commercial Motor Vehicles



To All Law Enforcement Personnel:

Statistics rank Georgia as one of the top ten states in the nation in number of fatality crashes involving commercial motor vehicles.

Currently, the Georgia Department of Public Safety, MCCD and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) are engaged in a joint effort to make our nation's highways safer by reducing commercial vehicle crashes. The success of this endeavor depends on you, the law enforcement officer.

How Can You Help?

There are several ways you can help reduce commercial vehicle crashes. First, by careful, accurate completion of the "Commercial Vehicle Section" of the traffic accident report.

"What effect does the accurate completion of the Commercial Vehicle Section of the accident report have on the reduction of commercial vehicle accidents?"

Accurate completion of this section of the accident report facilitates MCC and FMCSA enforcement action on unsafe motor carriers or on motor carriers that have demonstrated high accident rates.

Once MCC and FMCSA identify a trucking company that has experienced an unusual number of traffic crashes, a Safety Compliance Review is performed at the carrier's place of business. During this review, officers audit the carrier's safety fitness records and perform safety inspections on the carrier's commercial vehicle fleet. A motor carrier failing to pass the review may face civil and/or criminal penalties. Follow-up audits are conducted to ensure the motor carrier's compliance with state and federal laws relating to commercial vehicle and driver safety.

Second, you can help reduce Georgia's commercial vehicle accident rate by aggressive traffic enforcement on unsafe and/or unqualified commercial vehicle drivers.

National commercial vehicle accident statistics indicate that moving violations cause the greatest number of truck at fault accidents. Changing driver behavior which could result in reduction of driver errors will help prevent commercial vehicle accidents. Remember, traffic laws and the Commercial Driver's License Law focus on prevention factors as well as public safety factors.

A recent FMCSA focus group, consisting of law enforcement officials throughout the na-

tion, advised that many law enforcement officers feel intimidated by their lack of knowledge of commercial vehicles and commercial vehicle drivers causing reluctance to make traffic stops on commercial motor vehicles.

Perhaps this is a valid conclusion; it is certainly true that most law enforcement officers have never received any training specific to commercial motor carriers, vehicles, and operators.

In an effort to reduce the commercial vehicle crash rate in Georgia and to assist law enforcement officers throughout the state in becoming more familiar with commercial vehicles, enforcement personnel of the Georgia Department of Public Safety, MCCD has developed an "Introduction to Commercial Motor Vehicles" course.

This is a one-of-a-kind course and, for the first time, offers to the general law enforcement officer a class which focuses specifically on commercial motor carriers, vehicles, and drivers.

The "Introduction to Commercial Motor Vehicles" course is designed to:

1. Increase the law enforcement officer's knowledge in completing the "Commercial Vehicle Section" of the traffic accident report;