

BIG RIGS BIG RISKS

6 things you should know
about truck accidents



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What makes a truck accident different?

Many people are aware that truck accidents take place every year in the United States, which causes injury to thousands of people. But did you know, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), about 5,000 of these trucking accidents lead to fatalities?

Truck accidents are different than car accidents, from the injuries and damage they cause, to the rules and regulations that govern the trucking industry. In addition to that, time is not on your side. You need a lawyer with specialized knowledge to get through all of the red tape, and get the compensation you deserve.

Here are the 6 things you need to know about truck accidents:



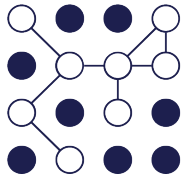
1 size matters

On average, truck accidents kill 11 people every day and injure 100,000 people each year. Larger and heavier vehicles hit with much more force and energy than a regular passenger vehicle. In other words, if you're struck by a truck, there's a good chance your injuries will be more severe, your medical care will be more expensive, and your recovery time will be a lot longer than if you were hit by a regular passenger vehicle. Larger accidents often mean you will need more compensation to recover, and it takes a qualified attorney who knows how to get it for you.



2 tired drivers are dangerous drivers

One of the main reasons for truck crashes is driver fatigue. A 50-ton vehicle should not be operated when the person behind the wheel is tired. The trucking industry and the government have standards for how long a driver can drive, how long they must sleep, and how long they must be off duty. Truckers must keep logbooks to track their time, but truck drivers have been caught keeping two sets of logbooks—one to show the authorities and another to show their employer for payroll purposes get paid—so it is important to get to those logbooks early before the "extra set" disappears.



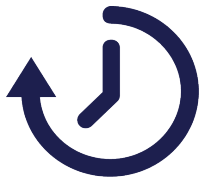
3 black box data

One in four truck drivers admit to falling asleep while driving. For this reason, the “black box” is another important puzzle piece after a truck accident. Modern diesel trucks are equipped with a device that tracks speed, hard braking, and engine problems. This information can be downloaded and analyzed to help determine what the truck was doing before, during, and after a crash. This data records on a loop, however, which means the oldest data is erased so that the newest data can be recorded. You will need to hire an attorney immediately to have an expert investigate the black box and download the data for your case.



4 mandatory vehicle inspections

If a tire is blown on a 50-ton truck, it can be disastrous. This is just one of the reasons why truck drivers are required to inspect their vehicles and check their equipment on a regular basis—typically at least once each day before they drive. An inspection sheet can be pretty good evidence as to whether or not the truck driver and trucking company were following good practices and regulations for safe operation of their equipment.



5 time is important

You should contact an attorney quickly after a trucking crash. After a trucking accident, filing a lawsuit may be the last thing on your mind considering all of your injuries. But within 24 and surely within 48 hours after the accident, the trucking company will have investigators at the scene gathering evidence—and sometimes even influencing the official investigation done by law enforcement. It’s not uncommon for black box data, logbooks, and other crucial evidence to go missing if you don’t have someone on your side preserving it immediately.



6

the right attorney is crucial for your case

You need to choose the right attorney to handle your truck accident case. Because the trucking company has already gathered evidence, your lawyer is coming in late to the process and will have to recreate and bridge gaps that may exist in your case. You need a lawyer who is familiar with the state and federal regulations, who knows the right experts, and who can make sense of what occurred and how you were injured. If you've been hurt in a truck accident, you need a lawyer who is willing and able to fight on your side.



get a free
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The most valuable asset to have on your side is a qualified and experienced Missouri trucking accident attorney. The Kansas City personal injury lawyers at The Pottenger Law Firm can help protect your rights after a trucking accident. Call us today to schedule a free consultation about your accident and to explore the options that are available to you.

