Investigating Trucker Safety in Wyoming

A Project of the Occupational Health Internship Program
Summer 2017

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Trucking in the U.S.
25.2 deaths per 100,000 FTE
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Wyoming 2012-2016
Transportation Industry
25% of Occupational Fatalities
Trucking in the U.S.  
25.2 deaths per 100,000 FTE  

Wyoming 2011-2015  
122 Fatal Truck Crashes  

Wyoming 2012-2016  
Transportation Industry  
25% of Occupational Fatalities
Objectives

* Assess driver knowledge of safe driving practices and Wyoming-specific hazards

* Identify major safety risks & concerns

* Identify best methods to communicate about hazards
Methods

Ports of Entry:
I-80
I-25
US-85
Methods

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- I-80
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### Results – Driver Characteristics

#### 270 Participants

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<th>Survey</th>
<th>National Estimate</th>
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<td><strong>Class 8 (Heavy Trucks)</strong></td>
<td>90%</td>
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<td><strong>Employment Type</strong></td>
<td>67% employed for wages</td>
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<td>33% owner-operators</td>
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<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
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Top Winter Driving Hazards

- Winter weather: 29%
- High winds/blow-over risk: 24%
- Other drivers: 13%
- Deteriorated road conditions: 11%
- Mountain passes: 8%
- Steep grades: 6%
- Narrow roads: 4%
- Construction zones: 4%
- Loss of brakes: 1%
- Other: 5%
- Refused/None: 1%

N=511 responses
Top Summer Driving Hazards

- Other drivers: 25%
- High winds/blow-over risk: 22%
- Construction zones: 19%
- Deteriorated road conditions: 12%
- Narrow roads: 7%
- Steep grades: 4%
- Mountain passes: 3%
- Loss of brakes: 3%
- Heat related maintenance: 3%
- Winter weather: 2%
- Other: 4%
- Refused/None: 4%

N=445 responses
How often do you drive despite fatigue or bad weather?

Percent reporting “sometimes” or “often” 43%
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Percent reporting “sometimes” or “often”
How often do you drive despite fatigue or bad weather?

Percent reporting “sometimes” or “often”:
- 43%
- 40%
- 40%
How often do you drive despite fatigue or bad weather?

Percent reporting “sometimes” or “often”
How often do you drive despite fatigue or bad weather?

- 43% reporting “sometimes” or “often”
- 40% reporting
- 26% reporting

Percent reporting “sometimes” or “often”
Crash Experiences

DOT Recordable Crash?  Training or process change?

24%
Crash Experiences

DOT Recordable Crash?

Training or process change?

24%

51%
<table>
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<th>93%</th>
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<td>Agree or Strongly Agree</td>
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- Employees and management work together to ensure the safest possible working conditions.
- There are no significant compromises or shortcuts taken when worker safety is at stake.
- Safety of workers is a high priority with management where I work.
Best Communication Methods?

- 25% 511
- 18% Mobile
- 12% Hi Truckers!
- 4% Uniform

N=444 responses
1. Public Education about trucks.
   * Overhead sign messages
   * Directing flyers towards the public
   * Incorporating it in driver training curriculum

   * 15-30% trips violation-inducing for length, loads and schedule (Beilock, 1995)

3. Wage policies and turnover issues.

Impact: National Truck Driver Appreciation Week

CAR VS SEMI?
NO CONTEST
GIVE THEM SPACE!

Other Messages:
* SEMIS NEED 2 FOOTBALL FIELDS TO STOP - PASS WITH CARE
* TRUCKERS: OUR MOUNTAINS ARE NO JOKE - CHECK YOUR BRAKES
* WINTER IS APPROACHING - USE 511 APP FOR TRAVEL INFO
* TRUCKERS: OUR MOUNTAINS ARE NO JOKE - CHECK YOUR BRAKES
Thanks for listening!

Acknowledgements
* Wyoming Trucking Association
* Wyoming Highway Patrol
* WTA Council of Safety Supervisors
* NIOSH National Truck Driver Survey

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