**SafeDRIVE Enforcement & Education**

**Talking Points for Safety Partners**

## What is SafeDRIVE?

* SafeDRIVE is a multi-state high-visibility enforcement and education initiative that discourages unsafe driver behaviors that can cause passenger and commercial vehicle crashes. It complements national efforts to educate all drivers on how to share the roads safely with large trucks and buses.
* We are working with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, local law enforcement, and state and federal agencies as part of this effort to prevent crashes by conducting quarterly periods of concentrated enforcement and education along [highway corridor].
* DRIVE stands for Distracted Reckless Impaired Visibility Enforcement – emphasizing that there will be high-visibility enforcement for these violations. Enforcement efforts focus on safe driving for commercial motor vehicles and the passenger vehicles operating around those large vehicles.
* SafeDRIVE launched in 2014, when 400 troopers, officers, and FMCSA inspectors were stationed along the 900 miles of I-95 in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida for three days of concentrated enforcement – resulting in zero traffic fatalities in the corridor during that time.
* The SafeDRIVE enforcement effort was so successful that it has continued every quarter since 2014 and expanded into 12 states.
* The next enforcement period is [enforcement dates].

## Why is SafeDRIVE important?

* The concept started on I-95, one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the United States. Since then, SafeDRIVE has expanded to other high CMV crash interstate areas including I-85, I-75, I-10, I-40, I-35, I-45, I-20, I-65, I-24, and I-69.
* 13% of the nation’s fatal commercial motor vehicle crashes occur on I-95 south of Virginia, so efforts were originally focused on North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. (See state data below.)
* The goal for SafeDRIVE is to prevent highway fatalities due to commercial motor vehicle collisions.
* SafeDRIVE is an enforcement effort that complements FMCSA’s *Our Roads, Our Safety* public awareness campaign, which educates all road users about sharing the road safely with large commercial motor vehicles. *Our Roads, Our Safety* helps improve safety on America’s roadways by providing safety tips to passenger vehicle drivers, CMV drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

## Key messages and calls to action

We want drivers to be aware of the SafeDRIVE period of increased enforcement periods and to remember:

### For commercial motor vehicle drivers:

* The quarterly SafeDRIVE enforcement waves along the [highway corridor] emphasize the need for all vehicles to share the road safely.
* Always obey all traffic laws: Wear your seatbelt, obey the speed limit, slow for work zones, and don’t drive distracted. Unsafe driving behaviors can lead to crashes and fatalities.
* Make sure your vehicle is in safe working order, and follow all regulations regarding hours of service, medical certification, and CMV credentialing and driver licensing.
* Additional tips for commercial motor vehicle drivers can be found at FMCSA’s website [here](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-truck-and-bus-drivers).

### For passenger vehicle drivers:

* Obey the speed limit on [highway] and wear your seatbelt.
* Never drive distracted or impaired.
* When driving around large trucks and buses, be patient and leave more space.
* Drivers of large trucks and buses have natural blind spots: Don’t cut off commercial motor vehicles or drive on the left or right side of them for a long period of time.
* Big trucks take 40% more space to stop: Don’t follow commercial motor vehicles too closely or merge or make sudden stops directly in front of them.
* Additional tips for motorists can be found at FMCSA’s *Our Roads, Our Safety* website [here](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-driving-safely-around-large-trucks-or-buses).

## State Data and other Facts & Figures

* In 2021, 5,446 large trucks and buses were involved in fatal crashes nationwide.
	+ **Florida had** 345 fatal crashes involving a large truck or bus.
	+ **Georgia had 223** fatal crashes involving a large truck or bus.
	+ **North Carolina had** 156 fatal crashes involving a large truck or bus.
	+ **South Carolina had** 121 fatal crashes involving a large truck or bus.
* Since its initial launch in 2014 in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina, FMCSA has expanded SafeDRIVE and now has partnerships in 12 states, adding:
	+ Alabama: 152 CMV-related fatal crashes
	+ Connecticut: 26 CMV-related fatal crashes
	+ Louisiana: 128 CMV-related fatal crashes
	+ Oklahoma: 123 CMV-related fatal crashes
	+ Tennessee: 200 CMV-related fatal crashes
	+ Texas: 812 CMV-related fatal crashes
	+ Virginia: 105 CMV-related fatal crashes
	+ Kentucky: 112 CMV-related fatal crashes.