**Louisiana Division, *Our Roads Our Safety* Talking Points for Safety Partners**

## What is *Our Roads, Our Safety*?

* The *Our Roads, Our Safety* (Our Roads) campaign provides all road users with information on how to share the road safely with one another. In line with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s mission to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses, this campaign focuses on the responsibility that road users understand the operating differences between different types of vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), and change their behavior accordingly.
* Efforts focusing on safe driving for CMV drivers and the passenger vehicle (or regular car) drivers operating around those large vehicles.

## Why is this effort important for Louisiana?

* FMCSA’s Louisiana Division Office is bringing Our Roads to the state to reduce crashes, particularly in the I-10/I-12 Corridor which includes 16 parishes. These parishes accounted for 54.4% of fatal CMV crashes and 58.8% of all crashes in 2021.[[1]](#footnote-1)
  + The interstate section of I-10 between West Baton Rouge and the I-10/I-12 split has 14.3% of all crashes on I-10, and 12.9% of all CMV crashes.1
  + I-10 in New Orleans between milepost 200 and 230 is another high crash corridor.1
* CMV fatal crashes occurring on the interstate more than doubled (122.7% increase) when compared to 2020.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Injuries caused by CMV crashes increased by 16.5% when compared to 2020.2
* In 2021, there was a 15.76% increase in total CMV crashes and a 30% increase in fatal crashes involving CMVs when compared to 2020.1
* The goal for Louisiana’s Our Roads campaign is to eliminate highway fatalities due to CMV collisions.

## Key messages and calls to action

### For CMV drivers:

* The Louisiana’s Our Roads campaign emphasizes 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 or even 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 CMV 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 and wear your seatbelt.
* Stay focused; driving distracted is as dangerous as driving impaired.
* Never drive under the influence; there is no safe limit for drinking before driving.
* 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 CMVs and don’t drive on the left or right side of those vehicles for a long period of time.
* Large trucks take 40% more space to stop: Don’t follow CMVs 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,
  + Louisiana experienced 4,239 total crashes involving CMVs, and 116 of those were fatal crashes.1
  + 702 crashes involving a CMV were caused by inattentive, careless, negligent, or erratic driving, which was the top crash factor.1
  + The highest proportion of CMV crashes (438) happened in October.1
  + 35.1% of fatal CMV crashes were rear-end crashes, followed by right angle accounting for 18.4% of crashes.2
* Additional metrics can be found at: <https://carts.lsu.edu/datareports/>

1. Center for Analytics & Research in Transportation Safety <https://carts.lsu.edu/datareports/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY IN LOUISIANA - An Analysis of Truck Crashes for 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)