**Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania?

* FMCSA’s Pennsylvania Division Office is bringing Our Roads to the state to reduce crashes, particularly within the following high-crash corridors[[1]](#footnote-1):
  + Philadelphia County (I-95 & I-76)
  + Allegheny County (I-79)
  + Montgomery County (I-276 & I-476)
  + Harrisburg (I-81)
  + Allentown (I-78)
* Pennsylvania has a high concentration of passenger carriers due to its location in the U.S. Not only is it a gateway for the Midwest and Southern states, but local tourism and proximity to other major east coast cities draws significant traffic to the interstate highways.
* Speeding (7.3%) was the top crash factor in 2021, followed closely by impaired driving (5.2%) and distraction (5.2%).[[2]](#footnote-2)
* The goal for Pennsylvania’s Our Roads campaign is to eliminate highway fatalities due to CMV collisions.

## Key messages and calls to action

### For CMV drivers:

* The Pennsylvania’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,
  + There were 7,000 total heavy truck crashes, causing 144 fatalities. [[3]](#footnote-3)
  + Roughly 2,000 people were involved in school bus crashes, and two were fatally injured.3
  + 350 crashes involving large trucks and buses caused by speeding, which was the top crash factor. 3
* Male CMV drivers ages 46-55 accounted for the most of the large truck crashes in Pennsylvania in 2020 (25%).[[4]](#footnote-4)
* Additional metrics can be found:
  + [Pennsylvania Crash information Tool](o%09https:/crashinfo.penndot.gov/PCIT/welcome.html)
  + [NHTSA Traffic Safety Fact Sheet](o%09https:/crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813283)

1. A&I & State ECVSP [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Large Truck and Bus Crash Facts 2020, People Table 29 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 2021 Pennsylvania Crash Facts & Statistics Manual. <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/Documents/2021_CFB_linked.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Large Truck and Bus Crash Facts 2020, People Tables 8 & 10 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)