



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Impacts of FMCSA Research on Field Operations

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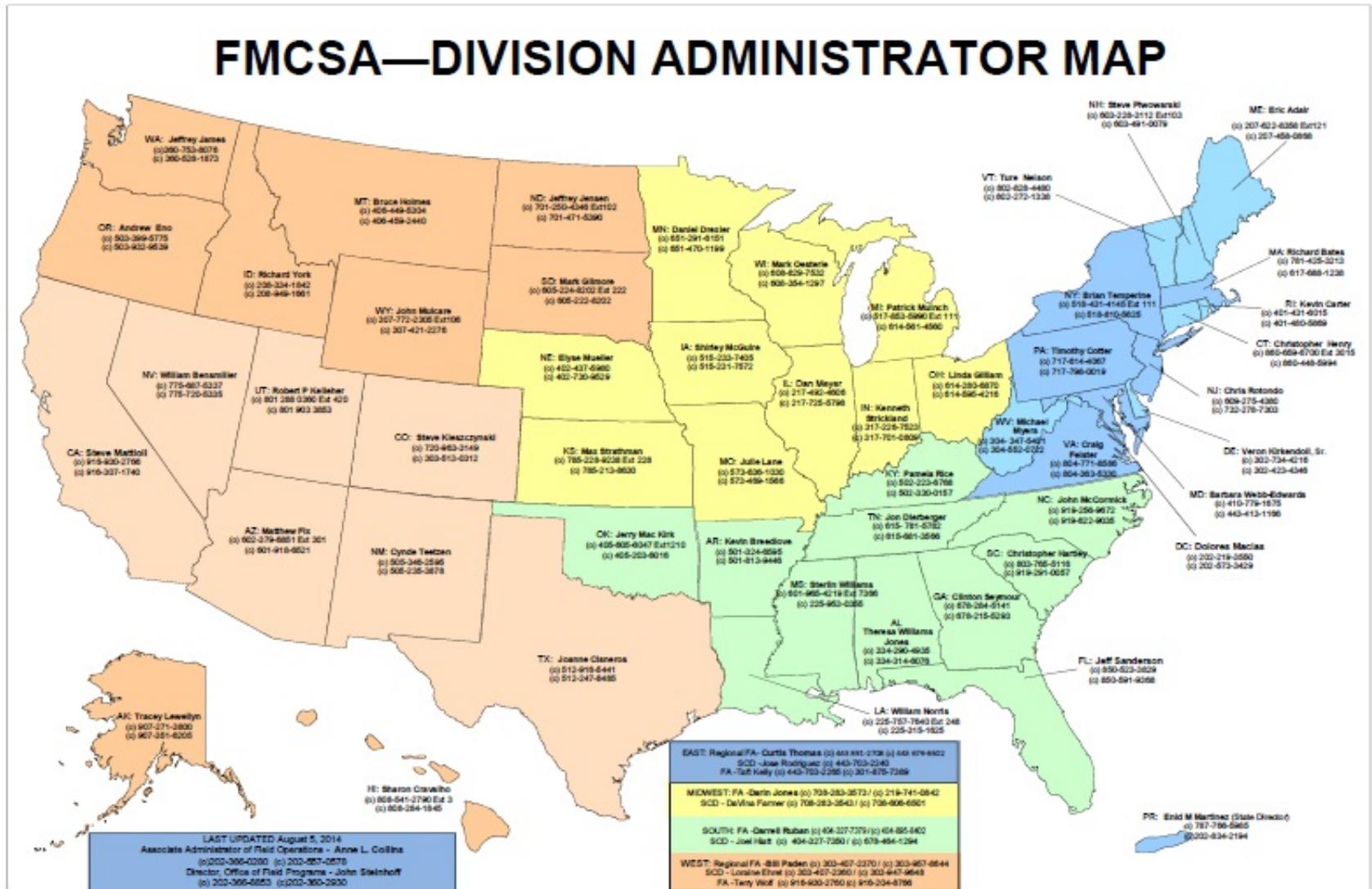
Office of Research and Information Technology



Presentation Overview

- Size and scope of FMCSA's Field Operations.
- How the Field operates.
- How research impacts Field Operations:
 - Support legal underpinnings of rules and policies.
 - Improves efficiency.
 - Improves effectiveness.
 - Supports industry and shared safety goals.

Field Operations: 96 Offices, 4 Regions



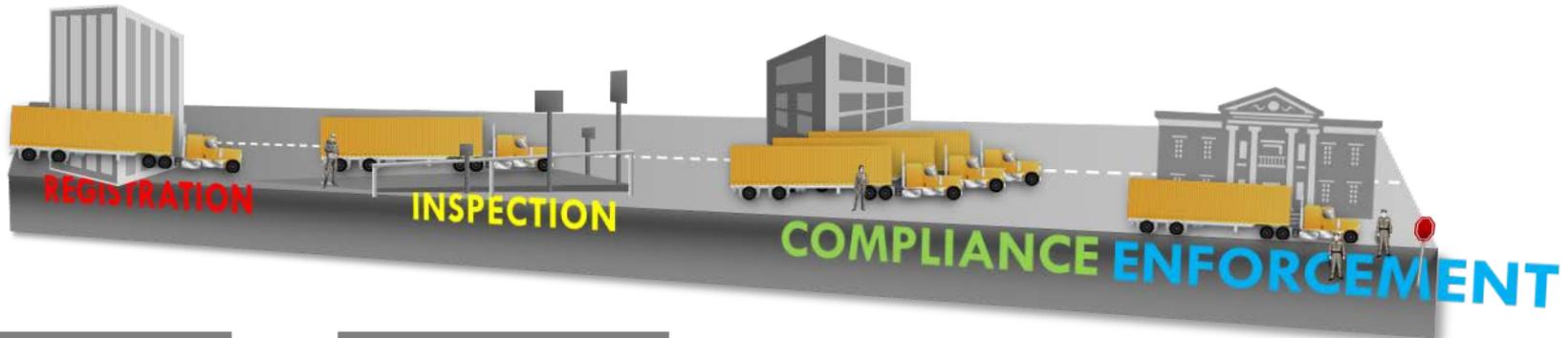
Staffing: 864 Authorized Federal Positions

- Regional Leaders:
 - Regional and Field Administrators 6
 - Service Center Directors 4
 - Program Managers 19
- Division Leaders
 - Division Administrators 52
 - Federal Program Specialists 53
 - State Program Specialists 46
- Safety Professionals
 - Safety Investigators 336
 - Safety Inspectors—Southern Border 158
 - Safety Auditors 33

State Partners

- Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP):
 - Approximately 11,000 Roadside Inspectors.
 - Approximately 500 Investigators.
 - Approximately 450 New Entrant Auditors.
- State Commercial Driver Licensing Program:
 - Examiners.
 - Policy, Customer Service, and Enforcement Personnel.
- Highway Safety Programs.

FMCSA Key Safety Processes Are: Registration, Inspection, Compliance, Enforcement



Field Activities

- **Roadside Inspections** (3.5 million annually).
 - Most (95%) conducted by State and local MCSAP and non-MCSAP partners.
 - Violations are linked to a carrier's USDOT number, and data is added to FMCSA's systems.
- **Compliance Investigations** (16,000 annually).
 - Performed both by FMCSA and State MCSAP partners (50% / 50%).
 - Documents a carrier's compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) and Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMRs).
 - RESULTS.

Field Activities, continued

- **Compliance Investigations** (continued).
 - A safety rating may be issued (Satisfactory, Conditional, or Unsatisfactory).
 - Civil penalties may also be issued.
 - Data is added to FMCSA's systems to identify high-risk companies.
- **Safety Audits** (31,000 annually).
 - Most (90%) conducted by State MCSAP personnel; Federal staff handle the other 10%.
 - Educational in nature—does not result in a safety rating.
- **Outreach, Education, and Training.**
 - Stakeholder communications.

Research Impacts on Field Operations

Support Policy Development and Rulemaking:

- Provides data for cost-benefit analyses.
- Shapes strategic direction of rules.
- Gives front line confidence in carrying out the rules and policies.

Example:

- Hours-of-Service Rule.

Research Impacts on Field Operations, continued

Improve Efficiency of Enforcement Activities:

- Data drives our programs.
- Given scarcity of resources, program decisions are constantly realigned based on results of research.
- Prevention is the most efficient enforcement program.

Examples:

- CSA—Safety Measurement System (SMS) Behavioral Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASIC) scores direct interventions.
- Vehicle Selection—e-screen guides inspection selection process.
- Entry-Level Driver Training.

Research Impacts on Field Operations, continued

Improve Effectiveness of Field Interventions:

- Research helps us understand the effectiveness of our interventions.
- We continuously seek to manage risk, and understanding crash data helps to refine the enforcement agenda.

Examples:

- Large Truck Crash Causation Study.
 - Results point us towards more effective enforcement strategies (i.e., driver performance, decision error responsible in 88% of CMV crashes) and direct resources at traffic enforcement.
- Intervention effectiveness studies.

Research Impacts on Field Operations, continued

Supports Industry and FMCSA in Shared Safety Goals:

- Vehicle safety enhancements reduce crashes.
- Enhanced tools make compliance easier and detection of misconduct easier.

Examples:

- Electronic Logging Devices.
- Speed Limiters.
- SmartPark Technology.

Contact Information:

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