Impacts of FMCSA Research on Field Operations

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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

FMCSA—DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR MAP

Office of Research and Information Technology
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

Companies register with FMCSA

Inspect vehicles and drivers and record safety compliance data

Investigators visit companies and record safety compliance data

Enforcement brings legal action against companies not in compliance

USDOT # / Operating Authority
60,000+ New Entrants

Roadside/Weigh Stations
- 3,600,000 inspections

Company Site Visits
- 30,000+ New Entrant Safety Audits
- 16,000 Compliance Investigations
- 20,000+ Warning Letters

Legal Action
- 10,000+ Enforcement Actions Initiated
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.
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:

- Vehicle Selection—e-screen guides inspection selection process.
- Entry-Level Driver Training.
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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