

Current FMCSA Crash Cost Figures

December 8, 2008

The Tables below present the Agency's current estimates for the costs associated with large truck crashes as of December 2008. These figures have been adjusted for the latest guidance from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation on the Value of a Statistical Life, and adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars. They are based on the 2006 report titled "Unit Costs of Medium and Heavy Truck Crashes", which was authored by Dr.'s Eduard Zaloshnja and Ted Miller of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) under contract from FMCSA. Table 1 lists the cost of an "average" crash by the type of truck involved. These figures are obtained by calculating a weighted average of all truck crashes of all severities, from crashes involving only property damage (i.e. fender benders) to crashes involving multiple fatalities.

Table 2 presents the Agency's estimates for Injury crashes. These figures are the average cost of a crash in which at least one person was injured, and include medical treatment and rehabilitation costs as well as quality of life losses for injured individuals who suffer long term disability from the crash. Finally, Table 3 presents the Agency's estimates for fatal crashes by truck type. These are crashes in which at least one person was killed, and the costs reflect the value of remaining life-years lost by the victims of the crash, in addition to the other costs associated with the crash such as treatment of injured victims, property damage, congestion delays, etc. In all cases, the Agency has attempted to include all costs to society that result from the crash, with the exception of pain and suffering for family and friends of crash victims.

**Table 1:
Cost of Average Truck-Involved Crash by Truck Type**

Type of Truck Involved	Cost of Average Crash
Straight truck, no trailer	\$97,811
Straight truck with trailer	\$125,070
Bobtail	\$98,849
Truck-tractor, 1 trailer	\$172,292
Truck-tractor, 2 or 3 trailers	\$511,582
Unknown medium/heavy truck	\$137,195
All medium/heavy trucks	\$148,279

**Table 2:
Cost of Truck-Involved Crash by Truck Type in which at
Least One Person was Injured**

Type of Truck Involved	Cost of Injury Crash
Straight truck, no trailer	\$247,353
Straight truck with trailer	\$293,922

Bobtail	\$327,405
Truck-tractor, 1 trailer	\$334,892
Truck-tractor, 2 or 3 trailers	\$1,202,697
Unknown medium/heavy truck	\$221,531
All medium/heavy trucks	\$331,108

**Table 3:
Cost of Truck-Involved Fatal Crash by Truck Type**

Type of Truck Involved	Cost of Fatal Crash
Straight truck, no trailer	\$6,314,659
Straight truck with trailer	\$6,349,486
Bobtail	\$6,394,300
Truck-tractor, 1 trailer	\$7,633,600
Truck-tractor, 2 or 3 trailers	\$6,667,552
Unknown medium/heavy truck	\$6,319,226
All medium/heavy trucks	\$7,200,310