



# Serious Vehicle Defects



# When Conducting a Large Truck or Bus Vehicle Stop



<b>OBSERVE</b>	Identify <b>traffic violations</b> associated with large truck and bus crashes.
<b>CONSIDER</b>	Identify <b>safety considerations</b> that apply before, during, and after a vehicle stop.
<b>DETECT</b>	Identify <b>potential indicators</b> of serious vehicle defects or criminal activity.
<b>REVIEW</b>	Identify the <b>documentation required</b> for processing a large truck or bus vehicle stop.
<b>REPORT</b>	Identify the <b>appropriate boxes</b> to check when filling out a citation for a large truck or bus vehicle.



# Public Safety Hazards



## SERIOUS VEHICLE DEFECTS

Anything that makes the vehicle a hazard on the road.



## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Any material that poses an unreasonable risk to health and safety.



# What to Look For – Defects



**SMOKE**

May be a sign of engine or brake trouble.

**LEAKS AND SPILLS**

May be any number of engine fluids.



# What to Look For – Placards



**IDENTIFICATION**

May include the identification number of the material.

**INFORMATION**

Includes the hazard class/division of the material.

**Do not approach a placarded vehicle that is leaking or smoking.**



# Visor Cards

Serious vehicle defects pose safety hazards for everyone on the road.

**Smoke**  
May indicate the vehicle is having engine problems of some kind.

**Leaks**  
May be any number of engine fluids, or the contents of the cargo tank, if the vehicle has one.




**SAFETY HAZARDS**

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

LARGE TRUCK AND BUS TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

*Hazardous materials are substances or materials that pose a risk to health, safety, and property.*



Vehicles transporting hazardous materials are typically placarded to indicate the presence of a hazard. Additionally, placards identify the type of hazard the material presents.

This information is indicated by the color of the placard and the number in the bottom corner.

If you stop a vehicle that is smoking or leaking fluid and you observe that it is placarded, do not approach the vehicle under any circumstances. Contact the appropriate agency and relay the placarding information in such cases.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

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