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**FMCSA and VTTI release driving tips website for CMV drivers**

In an effort to reduce the nearly 400,000 accidents that occur each year involving heavy trucks, particularly the estimated 87% of those caused by driver error, the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) in partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has developed a website to educate large truck drivers about defensive driving techniques.

“The goal of the program is to promote safer driving, and I think the approach we’ve used is innovative and will resonate with fleet safety managers and drivers,” said Rich Hanowski, director of the Center for Truck and Bus Safety at VTTI and principal investigator of the study that developed the site. “We feel that providing ‘driving tips’ that show real-world videos of driving errors is a compelling way to teach the importance of safe driving”.

According to Martin Walker, FMCSA’s Research Division Chief, the primary objective of the study was to develop a Driving Tips web page on the FMCSA website (<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/outreach/education/driverTips/index.htm>) to be used by commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers and fleet safety managers to show common large-truck driving errors and to provide tips on how to avoid such errors. “We believe the clips on the website of CMV drivers who were recorded making various driving errors will hit home with drivers better than anything we could simulate. Just about every driver will see themselves in one or the other of the situations we captured. Also, it is important to emphasize that the website is intended to be used as a supplemental driver training tool and not a replacement of the classroom or on-road training methods currently in use.”

The website utilizes the Large Truck Crash Causation Study (LTCCS) framework. Critical reasons, such as driver distraction, identified in the LTCCS are used as error categories on the website. Each error category includes a definition, followed by the driving tip, ‘did you know’ fact(s), video example(s), and training exercises. The video examples were captured through naturalistic driving studies conducted by VTTI and provide real-world examples of driving errors.

FMCSA will host the website and will continue to refine it through evaluations and feedback from users.

***Driving Transportation with Technology***