

Ohio's Safety Plan

2009 Update

Emphasis Area 4 Special Vehicles/Roadway Users: Commercial Motor Vehicles



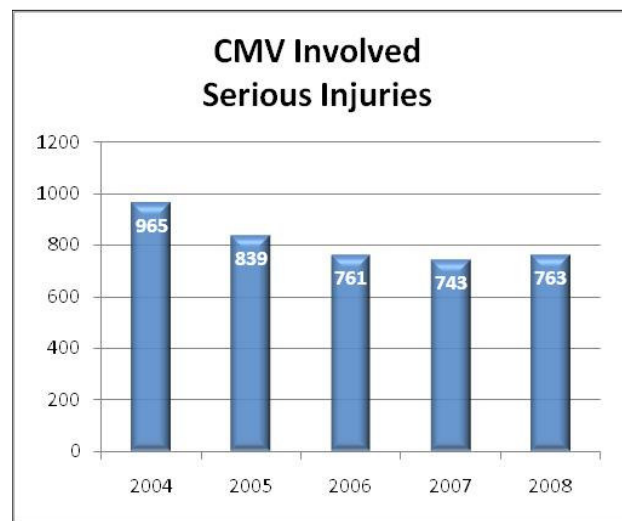
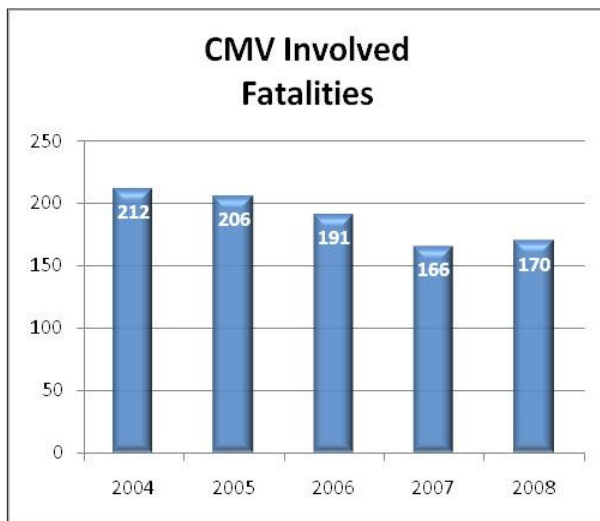
In 2008, there were 170 fatalities and 763 injuries involving commercial motor vehicles (CMV) on Ohio highways and roads.

These crashes represented about 14 percent of all fatalities and 7.5 percent of all serious injuries in Ohio for 2008. There are about 8 million licensed drivers in Ohio, with 626,105 holding a commercial driver's license

In 2008, Ohio hit a five-year low in the total number of CMV-related crashes with 4,950 crashes. However, the number of fatalities rose slightly, from 166 to 170.

While the overall percentage of CMV-related crashes remains low compared with other crash types, Ohio continues to focus on these crashes because when CMVs and other road users collide, the consequences can be severe. In 2008, about 47 percent of CMV-related crashes involved injuries or fatalities.

As in years past, the majority of CMV-related crashes occurred in urbanized areas, though CMVs also log millions of miles on Ohio rural roads. Most of these crashes occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. under dry weather conditions.



Driving Tips:

- **Obey posted speed limits and always wear a seat belt.** Allow extra travel time for traffic and bad weather to eliminate the need to speed.
- **Focus on the road.** If you are distracted (changing radio stations, talking on the phone, etc.), you put yourself and other road users at risk.
- **Adjust your speed before curves.** It's always better to enter a curve a little too slowly than too quickly.

Motorists can help, too, by:

- **Leaving plenty of room between your vehicle and a large truck.** Trucks need a greater stopping distance than cars.

Strategies (where applicable):

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Transportation Department) and the Ohio State Highway Patrol are the two agencies directly responsible for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety in Ohio. The agencies receive funding from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), which provides grants to states to enforce motor carrier safety laws and regulations. Through this Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program, the two agencies work with other agencies and carriers across the state to reduce the number and severity of crashes and hazardous material incidents involving CMVs.

Some of the strategies outlined in the plan, include:

Reduce the number of total CMV-involved injury and fatal crashes occurring in the top six high-crash counties.

Each OSP District in the top counties will conduct 20% more motor carrier enforcement inspections over the average of the previous three years.

Reduce the number of CMV-involved fatal crashes in work zones.

From April 1-September 30, conduct 300 motor carrier inspections in each identified work zone. PUCO and OSP will meet with ODOT to select major interstate work zones for 2010 inspection and enforcement activities, which are now underway.

Target the top 25 intrastate carriers (based on crashes and violations) for intrastate compliance reviews.

Target hazmat enforcement in nontraditional areas of the state including secondary roadways, as well as intra-city regions and industrial areas where hazmat shipments originate.

PUCO will schedule 16 inspectors to devote one week each quarter to conduct 20-25 inspections per person.

Improve the timeliness and accuracy of CMV crash data uploads.

PUCO working with the Ohio Department of Public Safety to update crash records and improve integration with PUCO and FMCSA databases.

Conduct high visibility patrols and strict enforcement of aggressive driving and seat belt use among CMVs in select rural areas.

Between 2009-2011, 110 saturation enforcement efforts will be conducted for a total 3,250 hours in conjunction with local law enforcement.