

# 18-Wheeler and Large Truck Accident Claims

Fatal truck crashes are increasing, a fatal upward trend spanning years.

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## 18-Wheelers, Semis, and Large Trucks

Though truck accidents are far less common than car accidents, they are responsible for a greater number of serious injuries and fatalities on the road. Unfortunately, all studies point to one fatal result: collisions with large trucks are on the rise. Fatal truck crashes are increasing and have been trending upwards over the last 10 years. The World Health Organization\* estimates that accidents on the road will become the seventh largest cause of death in the U.S. by 2030.

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- We will be using the term 'large trucks' or 'trucks' to reference the wide range of commercial vehicles that traverse the roadways of our country transporting goods. These vehicles include 18-wheelers, semi-trailer trucks, tractor-trailers, and box trucks.

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\* World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/topic-details/GHO/road-traffic-mortality>



Heavy traffic can lead to congested roads and accidents. Roads in Mississippi with the heaviest traffic include:

- US-98/Hardy Street in Hattiesburg,
- MS-25/Lakeland Drive in Jackson
- US-90/Bienville Boulevard in Biloxi
- US-45 in Meridian
- US-49 in Hattiesburg
- US-51/North State Street in Jackson



Per the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration\* (NHTSA), 5,788 people were killed and an estimated 154,993 people were injured in traffic crashes involving large trucks in 2021. TruckInfo.net estimates that, of the hundreds of thousands of truck accidents that happen every year: 71 percent of injuries are from occupants in other motor vehicles, 27 percent are from the occupants of the large truck, and around 2 percent are other individuals like pedestrians or bicyclists. TruckInfo.net\* also estimates that 116,353 large trucks were involved in accidents in 2022. 1,591 of those accidents happened in Mississippi.



\* National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813452.pdf>

\* TruckInfo.net. <https://www.truckinfo.net/research/truck-accident-statistics>

## Which states have the deadliest roads in America?

- Mississippi
- South Carolina
- Arkansas
- New Mexico
- Montana

Mississippi ranked first in having the deadliest roads in America, with 26 deaths per 100,000 people in 2021, per the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety\* (IIHS). Mississippi is followed by South Carolina, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Montana. However, the states with the highest number of fatal crashes overall are Texas, California, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.

## What's the top five states for trucking accidents?

- Texas
- California
- Florida
- Tennessee
- Georgia (tied)
- Indiana (tied)

In 2021, Texas, California, Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia/Indiana (tied) were the top five states for trucking accidents per the IIHS. Each state has factors that contribute to the type, frequency, and percentage of motor vehicle crash deaths. Due to its size, Texas far outranks any other state in large truck, pickup truck, and SUV-related crash deaths. On the other side of the spectrum, Hawaii and Rhode Island have the lowest amount of large truck-related crash deaths.

\* Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. <https://www.iihs.org/topics/fatality-statistics/detail/large-trucks>



According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration\*, drugs and alcohol abuse are not the only causes of large truck crashes. Mechanical defects (most often found in tires), new and unfamiliar tour routes, and driver fatigue are the top three main causes. Other causes include distracted driving, poor road conditions, and reckless behaviors such as tailgating.

**If you or someone you know has been injured in a large truck accident, you may have a legal claim. Let our attorneys provide you with professionally curated legal care services.**

\* Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/research-and-analysis/large-truck-crash-causation-study-analysis-brief>

# Components of a Large Truck Accident Claim

1

## Property Damage

Because trucking accidents can be so devastating, the cost of repair to the car or smaller truck could be greater than the cost of a replacement vehicle.

2

## Medical Treatment

Trucking accidents may result in permanent injuries. Broken bones and traumatic brain injuries are devastating to an injured driver and their family. These injuries may require costly, long-term medical care.

3

## Lost Wages

Lost wages should be carefully calculated if the injuries are long-term or permanent. For example, serious spinal injuries may leave an injured driver paralyzed and unable to work.

4

## Non-Economic Damages

Non-economic damages include the pain, suffering, and mental anguish experience as a result of the accident.

Your attorney can help you navigate the claims process and assist you in seeking the proper medical treatment after your accident. They can assess the value of all components of your claim to ensure you receive the compensation you deserve.

# What To Do If You Are In A Motor Vehicle Accident

- Call 911 **immediately**. Your health and safety are top priorities.
- **Do not** move your vehicle. Leave it exactly where it is. This is important for documenting the evidence you'll need to file a claim for compensation.
- Call the authorities and **file a police report**. You must do this in order to file an insurance claim.
- **Take as many photos** of the accident as you can. This evidence will substantiate your insurance claim, making it less likely to be rejected.
- Even if you think you feel okay, **go see a doctor**. Symptoms of a serious injury may not surface immediately. Without treatment, your condition could worsen.
- **Call an attorney** to handle the compensation claim, medical bills, and at-fault party's insurance company. Your focus should be on recovery, both mentally and physically.



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## WHO WE ARE

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The Diaz Law Firm is committed to putting people first. For 40 years, we've walked beside the injured on their path to recovery. We've protected our clients' rights against injustice from powerful corporations and big businesses like the pharmaceutical industry, insurance companies, and corporate polluters.

Contact us about legal care services for your potential large truck accident lawsuit. We are fighting to provide the justice and safety all drivers deserve.

Our case evaluations are **always free**, with no obligations. Give us a call today!

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