

Law enforcement and CMV inspection officers encounter unique challenges when they are investigating and reporting traffic accidents involving CMVs.

Complete and accurate documentation is the best way to ensure valuable safety analyses of crash data. This is essential in forming State and Federal policies designed to reduce the number and severity of CMV crashes.



Crash Data Collection for Commercial Motor Vehicles

The National Institute for Safety Research (NISR) develops and delivers this training for FMCSA. NISR has a 30-year partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation's traffic safety agencies and has conducted hundreds of training sessions on the coding and quality of highway traffic safety data and on other topics essential for State law enforcement and public safety officers.

For additional information about the training or to schedule a training session, contact NISR at (301) 533-0750 or by e-mail at CMVtraining@nistrinc.com.

The National Institute for Safety Research (NISR)

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SSDQ
State Safety Data Quality Program

This training is one component of the FMCSA State Safety Data Quality (SSDQ) program. The SSDQ program is a comprehensive data and information quality plan that supports FMCSA's safety goals and objectives.

Crash Data Collection for Commercial Motor Vehicles

A comprehensive, State-tailored course designed to train participants in the accurate documentation of commercial motor vehicle crashes



Sponsored by:
Office of Analysis, Research and Technology
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

In Cooperation with:
State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies



COURSE OVERVIEW

This in-depth course addresses situations encountered by State and local law enforcement officers when they are recording commercial motor vehicle (CMV) crash data onto a State's paper or electronic crash report and/or truck or bus supplement form. Proper collection and recording of CMV data are essential to ensure proper translation into State and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) crash record data systems. Having accurate and complete CMV crash data helps save lives.

Who should attend this training?

This course has been delivered in more than 25 States, and many States have asked the instructors to return for additional classes. The class has been shown to improve the quality of CMV data reported to the State and to FMCSA.

Attendance is recommended for:

- Local and State police officers who complete crash report forms at the crash scene
- CMV inspection officers who perform accident scene inspections
- Trainers at local and State law enforcement academies
- State Department of Transportation (DOT) or Department of Public Safety (DPS) employees responsible for entering data from State crash report forms into State data systems or into FMCSA's SAFETYNET
- State DOT or DPS employees who develop data systems
- FMCSA State Division employees responsible for collection and analysis of CMV crash data.



Is the training tailored to my State's crash report form?

The instructors prepare for each training session with a thorough review of your State's paper or electronic crash report, bus or truck supplement, and instruction manual. Course materials are tailored to the unique needs of your State and incorporate screen captures showing the actual crash report, supplement, or electronic system used in your State, with detailed overviews and customized lessons and accident scenarios that help make the training more relevant to the attendees.

How much does the training cost?

FMCSA offers this training completely FREE of charge, and the trainer travels to your State! The cost of all training materials, the instructors, the instructors' travel to your State, and their accommodations are paid for by FMCSA.

Your organization is responsible for:

- The cost and scheduling of the training location
- The costs associated with participant travel to the training.

Local and State agencies may use Safety Data Improvement Program (SaDIP) grant funds to cover expenses related to the training.

Can this course be offered in a train-the-trainer format?

This course is often offered as a train-the-trainer session. Local and State agencies or State law enforcement academies often send their in-house trainers for training in how to conduct this course for their home troops. Many States currently use the materials from the class as part of the curricula at their State law enforcement academies and as part of their in-service training programs. In some States this course qualifies for credit toward professional education training requirements for law enforcement officers.

All instructor trainees receive:

- A CD containing all customized PowerPoint presentations used in the class and print-ready handouts of all lessons
- Useful tips for classroom instruction and frequently asked questions.

Guidance is also provided for how to record and report:

- Non-contact CMV crashes
- Single-vehicle CMV crashes
- Crashes involving a CMV that is parked or stopped off the roadway
- Other State-specific issues, as requested.

TRAINING TOPICS

This course can be taught as a comprehensive, full-day or half-day class tailored to your State's specific needs and time constraints. This course can also be taught as a train-the-trainer course for your State academies or local and State police trainers. Each of the five topics below will be tailored to your State crash report and instructions manual and will emphasize the use of nationally accepted terminology for crash data reporting.

LESSON 1: Reportable Crashes

Overview of the selection process for reportable CMV crashes, including how to identify qualifying CMVs and some noncommercial vehicles and detailed guidance on relevant sections of your State's crash report form.

LESSON 2: Identifying a CMV and Recording Correct CDL Information

Step-by-step guidance on how to identify and record motor carrier and commercial driver license information. A class-participation case exercise is used to reinforce proper recording of accurate data.

LESSON 3: Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) / Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR), Vehicle Configuration, and Cargo Body Type

Detailed examination of GVWR and GCWR. Real-world photos with relevant State-specific coding are used to exhibit both typical and unusual vehicle configurations and body types.

LESSON 4: Identifying and Recording Hazardous Materials Information

Review of hazardous materials classes, placard requirements, and quantity reporting procedures and how to locate and record the appropriate information for your State's crash report form.

LESSON 5: Crash Events: Harmful Events and Sequence of Events

Photos are used to illustrate collisions with fixed objects and to demonstrate the crash sequence of events, from the first harmful event to the event resulting in the most severe injury to occupants or damage to vehicle. Short case studies and hands-on class exercises are used to clarify definitions and coding for both collision and noncollision crashes. Includes a review of FMCSA policy for reporting fires as crashes.

