

Defensive Driving Tips for CMV Drivers: An Internet-Based Approach

Task Order # 2: Project Final Briefing

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F M C S A
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Driving Transportation with Technology



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- Vern Moore, Tom DiSalvi, Jerry Waddell, Scott Manthey, and Del Lisk served as the subject matter experts
- Drivers providing consent to use their videos made this project possible



Presentation Overview

- Driver Error
- Defensive Driving
- Background summary and key points
- Project objectives
- Project tasks
- Deliverables
- Webpage Overview

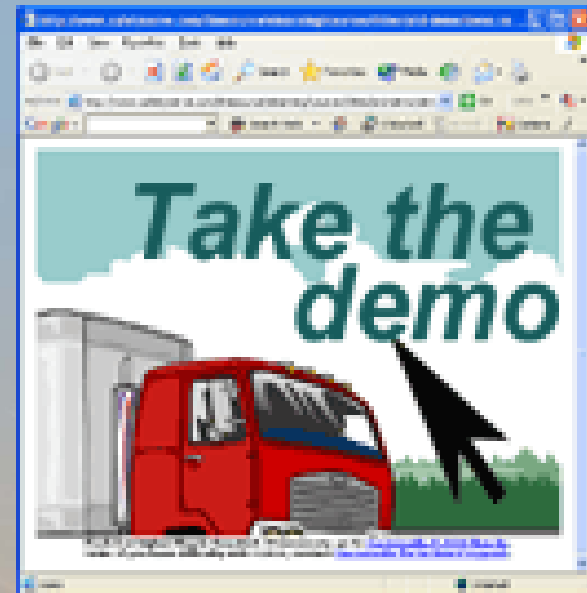


Driver as Critical Reason

- In 2004, large trucks accounted for 12% of all fatal crashes (FMCSA, 2004)
- LTCCS study (2002) reports that large trucks were assigned the critical reason in 55% of cases; driver reasons accounted for 87% of cases
- DDWS FOT study (2005) reports that large trucks were assigned the critical reason in 71% of safety-critical events; driver reasons accounted for 57.9% of cases
- Use the LTCCS critical reason framework and add specific examples from the naturalistic studies

Defensive Driver Training/Courses

- Several organizations offer training and courses on defensive driving tips for truck and bus drivers
 - National Safety Council, DDC-PTD
(www.nsc.org)
 - Safety and Health Council
(www.safetync.org)
 - FMCSA's "Share the Road Safely"
(www.nozone.org)
 - Smith System
(www.smith-system.com)





Summary and Key Points

- “Driver Error” is the primary contributing factor in crashes
- There are several studies, including many conducted by FMCSA-VTTI, that have identified specific driver behavior and performance errors (“error categories”)
- Driver training and defensive driving programs are in place to improve driving skill and reduce driver errors
 - The goal of the current project was to supplement these programs, not replace them
- To underline the driver training message, this project used video recordings, collected from naturalistic driving studies, to demonstrate key driver errors



Project Objectives

- Develop defensive driving safety information
- Generate video examples of driving behavior “do’s” and “don’ts”
- Design webpage content on defensive driving techniques
- Via webpage, provide ideas and tips to fleet safety managers and CMV drivers
- Webpage to be included on FMCSA’s website



Project Tasks

- Literature review
 - Web design, usability
 - Driver error, defensive driving, truck driver safety
- Input from Fleet Safety Managers
 - JB Hunt (Vern Moore)
 - Schneider (Tom DiSalvi)
 - Cargo Transporters (Jerry Waddell)
 - Gordon Trucking (Scott Manthey)
 - DriveCam (Del Lisk, formerly of Smith System)
- Webinar held with experts to outline first draft of content and second review of near-final draft



Webpage Development

- Developed content around key/priority Commercial Vehicle Driving “Do’s” and “Don’ts”
- Worked with Wyle Information Systems and FMCSA to format content and ensure it matched FMCSA’s website existing look & feel
- For the Driving Tips (“Don’ts”) that were identified, found matching video from a naturalistic driving study
- Asked drivers in the videos for their permission to use for the webpage

Final Deliverables

- Final Report that includes the literature review and describes the web content development process (submitted)
- Website



The screenshot displays the website for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The page title is "CMV Web-Based Driving Tips Home Page". The navigation menu includes "Home", "Rules & Regulations", "Registration & Licensing", "Forms", "Safety & Security", "Facts & Research", "Cross Border", and "About FMCSA". The "Facts & Research" section is expanded, showing a list of driving tips: "Project Background", "Too Fast for Conditions", "Unfamiliar Roadway", "Inadequate Surveillance", "Driver Fatigue", "Driver Distraction", "Following Too Closely", "Inadequate Evasive Action", "Documents", and "References". The main content area contains three paragraphs of text, a logo for the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, and a footer with contact information and links.

U.S. Department of Transportation Keyword Links | Contact Us | Español

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Home | Rules & Regulations | Registration & Licensing | Forms | Safety & Security | Facts & Research | Cross Border | About FMCSA

Home > Facts & Research > CMV Web-Based Driving Tips Home Page Search All FMCSA Sites

CMV Web-Based Driving Tips Home Page

Facts & Research

CMV Driving Tips

- Project Background
- Too Fast for Conditions
- Unfamiliar Roadway
- Inadequate Surveillance
- Driver Fatigue
- Driver Distraction
- Following Too Closely
- Inadequate Evasive Action
- Documents
- References

Even the most well-trained, safety-conscious Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) driver is at risk of engaging in driving behaviors that could lead to a crash on today's crowded highways. Weather conditions or road conditions change and suddenly "driving too fast for conditions" becomes a risk factor. Failing to look or looking and not seeing, impaired performance because of fatigue, inattention or daydreaming or an unexpected external distraction can all lead to a truck crash.

This website was developed to raise the consciousness of CMV drivers about common driving errors and to provide valuable driving tips through an easily accessible tool, the Internet. Fleet safety managers can also use this website for their driver training programs. These tips offer preventive measures that CMV drivers can take to help avoid crashes.

The driving tips, ideas and suggestions on this website are supported with real-world video clips (25- to 30-second video clips) recorded in a naturalistic (open roadway, non-test track) driving study conducted by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI). The video clips show examples of driver errors that will serve to motivate CMV drivers to become safer drivers and thereby avoid dangerous driving situations. Also, as a training exercise, each video clip is followed by a set of questions to help encourage you to think about and examine the driver's behavior.

Please click on any of the error categories (left navigation bar) under the "Driving Tips" section. Under each category you will find driving tips, interesting facts, video clips, a video description, and the training exercise questions.


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