

## **CVSA Opposes Exempting Utility (Gas, Water, Electric) Service Vehicles from All Driver Hours-of-Service Regulations**

- According to data from the Motor Carrier Management Information Systems of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, in 2003, utility companies had a higher rate of crashes and fatalities than the general freight category.
- Over the past three years, utility vehicle and driver out-of-service rates have grown higher and are getting worse compared to the rest of the trucking industry.
- Utility companies are overly represented on FMCSA's "worst carrier" lists.
- Under both the old and new FMCSA hours-of-service rules, utility companies already have an emergency exemption. This emergency definition can and should be modified to include local emergencies.
- Utility companies do **not** work under emergency conditions during 85-90% of the year.
- Utility companies were covered under the old rules for 20 years prior to April 2003.
- CVSA believes that utility companies should, at a minimum, be covered under the old hours-of-service rules and that authority should always remain with the Secretary to review utility hours-of-service rules. The total exemption the industry proposes would permanently take this regulatory authority away from the Secretary.

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