

OPENING REMARKS

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Good morning...welcome to Indianapolis and the 2006 Commercial Vehicle Brake Safety Symposium.

Why are we here? I'm here, yes as the president of the Alliance, but more importantly I'm here, as I'm sure everyone is, to work collaboratively in the hope of finding solutions. Solutions to the 'brake' issue. Attacking this problem and providing solutions holds tremendous promise as one of the most important vehicle-based improvements to the safe operation of commercial vehicles.

Operation Air Brake enforcement data shows 17% of all commercial vehicles inspected were placed out of service for brake-related defects.

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In a 2003 study conducted during Operation Air Brake, of commercial driver knowledge on brakes, less than ½ % (.37% or 15 of 4,055) of the drivers were able to provide the correct responses to questions on brake adjustment.

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Arguably the largest study ever conducted on large truck crashes, the 2006 Large Truck Crash Causation Study, indicated that brakes were a factor in 29.4% of all the crashes investigated.

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It was July 29, 2005, about 7:30 in the morning...I received the call...Sarge, there's a big accident... a dump truck into a line of

cars and a motor coach on Avon Mountain! Can you send someone right away?

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After thousands of hours of work and a number of agencies, companies and persons working on the investigation I learned that no one person or agency can find the solution or fix the problem...that everyone needs to communicate with one another and needs to share what we know with those who need it.

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Knowledge sharing...nearly ten separate law enforcement agencies coming together...the local town garage providing space, their heavy duty truck mechanic and his tools...the Mack dealer sending his engine and transmission specialists...the Haldex representative coming out and examining the slack adjusters...the independent lab working with the clutch manufacturer...the list goes on!

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It was the combined effort of everyone involved that resulted in a signed arrest warrant for the company owner (who was not driving) on four counts of manslaughter, five counts assault 1st degree, one count interfering, two counts tampering, one count conspiracy, and twenty-three counts for motor carrier related charges.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of the four people that died as a result of this tragic accident.

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This week's theme is "imparting knowledge and providing direction." Let's get to work, find creative ways of doing business

and lead North America into the future and attack the brake issue head on!

We must work together, cooperate, communicate and continue to have good discussions that will positively impact commercial vehicle safety. Let's think and act differently, too many people are dying on our highways!

Let's have a great week, be safe and Godspeed!