

news release



COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS WILL GET AN AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE Police Target Unsafe Car, Truck Drivers During ‘Operation Safe Driver’ Campaign

Washington, DC (October 14, 2008) –Each year more than 44,000 people die on the roadways throughout North America – many of which are the direct result of unsafe and aggressive driving practices by both passenger and commercial vehicle drivers. During the week of October 19-25, law enforcement across North America will respond by actively targeting these drivers during a campaign dubbed ‘Operation Safe Driver.’

“In large truck crashes where one or more deaths result from the crash, 88 percent of the time it is attributable to driver error by both car and truck drivers. Operation Safe Driver will have a razor sharp focus on targeting and taking aggressive enforcement action for poor decisions made by drivers of commercial vehicles and those 4-wheelers operating unsafely around them,” said Stephen F. Campbell, Executive Director of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. “We are also rolling out education and awareness strategies to combat this epidemic. Far too many deaths are occurring, and it is unacceptable to stand by and watch the carnage continue.”

Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death worldwide among young people aged 10-24 years. Each year nearly 400,000 people under 25 die on the world’s roads – on average more than 1,000 a day.

CVSA, in partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), state, provincial and local law enforcement and industry launched the campaign last year to combat the number of deaths in crashes involving large trucks and passenger vehicles.

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Inattention, insufficient awareness of traffic conditions and unsafe maneuvers by drivers are far and away the leading causes of fatal crashes between passenger cars and commercial vehicles,” said John H. Hill, administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. “Every driver must do their part to ensure safety on our highways and roads.”

Operation Safe Driver will hold activities across the United States, Canada and Mexico that aim to increase commercial vehicle and non-commercial vehicle traffic enforcement; safety belt enforcement; driver roadside inspections; driver regulatory compliance; implementation of commercial driver educational and awareness programs to the motor carrier population; and, awareness to the motoring public about safe operations around commercial motor vehicles. For more information about the campaign visit, www.cvsa.org/safedriver.

CVSA is an international not-for-profit organization comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial and federal motor carrier safety officials and industry representatives from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Our mission is to promote commercial motor vehicle safety and security by providing leadership to enforcement, industry and policy makers. In addition, CVSA has several hundred associate members who are committed to helping the Alliance achieve its goals; uniformity, compatibility and reciprocity of commercial vehicle inspections, and enforcement activities throughout North America by individuals dedicated to highway safety and security. For more on CVSA visit www.cvsa.org.

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