


FATAL TRUCK ACCIDENTS


in Decline Despite
RECENT UPTICK
in Crashes




The number of fatal truck and bus crashes rose slightly in 2013 (the most recent year for which data is available), but has decreased significantly compared to 2003. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration reports that there were:

 **3,906** large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2013, which is a **2%** increase over the prior year.

 **280** fatal bus crashes, which is an **11%** increase

 The number of fatal crashes involving large trucks has declined by **17%**

 The number of buses involved in fatal crashes has fallen by **4%**



An accident between a car and truck is more likely to cause serious or fatal injuries compared to a car versus car accident.



That's because these commercial vehicles are larger and heavier, and take longer to slow down, stop or swerve to avoid a collision.

Buses have a greater risk of injuries and fatalities not only because of their size and weight, but because bus passengers are rarely protected by safety features such as seatbelts.



In the event of a fire or bus that has tipped over, passengers may have difficulty exiting the vehicle if emergency windows are hard to operate and doors are blocked.



LARGE TRUCK ACCIDENT STATISTICS

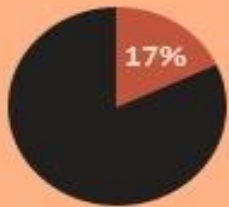
The DOT's Large Truck and Bus Crash Facts 2013 reports:

In 2013, **4,186** large trucks and buses were involved in fatal crashes, a **3%** increase from 2012

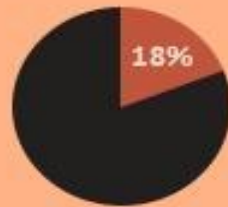


From 2012 to 2013, large truck and bus fatalities per **100** million vehicle miles traveled by all motor vehicles remained steady at 0.142

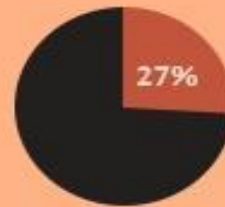
IN THE 10 YEARS BETWEEN 2003 AND 2013:



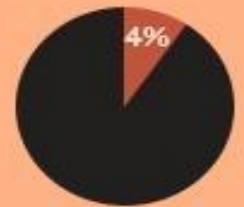
The number of fatal large truck crashes declined **17%**



The number of injury-producing large truck crashes declined **18%**



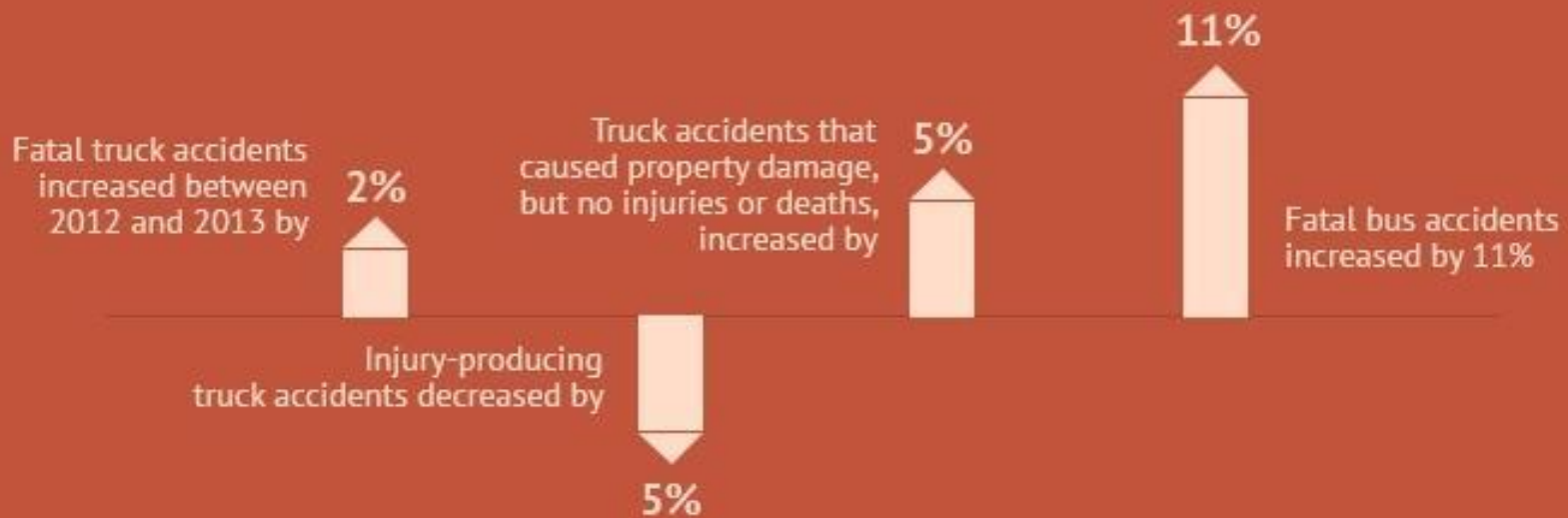
The number of large truck crashes that caused property damage, but didn't injure or kill anyone, decreased by **27%**



The number of fatal bus crashes decreased **4%**

Intercity buses were involved in **13%** of all bus crashes, school buses accounted for **41%** of all bus crashes and transit buses accounted for **33%** of bus accidents.

WHEN LOOKED AT ON AN ANNUAL BASIS:



The numbers generally correspond to nationwide trends involving all types of motor vehicle accidents. For example, 2,889,000 people were injured in all types of motor vehicle accidents in 2003, compared to 2,313,000 injuries in 2013. Although the number of injuries has declined significantly over the last decade, it's up slightly compared to lows of 2,217,000 injuries in both 2009 and 2011.

TYPES OF ACCIDENTS LEADING TO FATALITIES

The report also looks at the types of large truck accidents that are leading to fatalities

In 2013, **3,525** people were killed in accidents involving large trucks.

Another **427** of the fatalities were riding in large trucks involved in single-vehicle crashes and 264 were large truck occupants involved in multi-vehicle accidents.



Of those, **1,438** of the people who were killed were riding in passenger cars



1,164 were in light trucks (which includes pick-up trucks, vans and sports utility vehicles)

16 fatalities were in buses involved in crashes with large trucks, and 204 fatalities were motorcycle riders



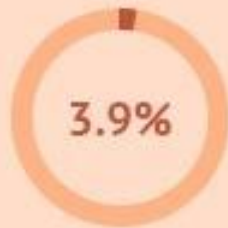
An additional **12 fatalities** were not categorized



Of the **439** non-motorists who were killed in accidents involving large trucks in 2013, **338** were pedestrians and **78** were bicyclists. **23** of the fatalities were not categorized.

ALCOHOL PLAYS A ROLE IN TRUCK & BUS CRASHES

Many of the accidents involving buses and trucks involved at least one driver who was under the influence of alcohol:

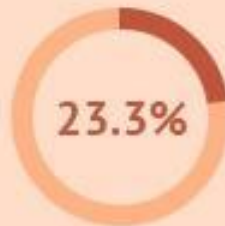


3.9% of large truck drivers had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of at least 0.01 and 2.4% had a BAC of at least 0.08.

25% of light truck drivers had a BAC of at least 0.01 and 21.4% had a BAC of at least 0.08.



23.3% of the passenger car drivers had a BAC of at least 0.01 and 22.9% had a BAC of at least 0.08.



34.5% of motorcyclists had a BAC of at least 0.01 and 27.2% had a BAC of at least 0.08.

IF YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT WITH A TRUCK OR BUS

If you or a family member has been hurt or killed in a trucking accident or bus crash, call the Chicago trucking accident attorneys at Cogan & Power.



Our personal injury lawyers can arrange a free consultation with you at our offices or a location that's convenient to you.



We can review the specific details of your accident and make a preliminary determination of whether you have a valid legal claim against the driver of the truck, bus or another motor vehicle involved in the accident.

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Website: www.coganpower.com



Blog: www.coganpower.com/blog/fatal-truck-accidents-in-decline-despite-recent-uptick-in-crashes/