

Commercial Truck Crashes Account for 14% of Georgia Traffic Fatalities, State Data Shows

Despite billions spent on safety, truck crashes still kill hundreds yearly as violations rise and new laws make it harder for victims to seek justice.

ATLANTA, GA, UNITED STATES, September 16, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Despite the commercial

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trucking industry's record \$14 billion annual investment in safety programs, large truck crashes continue claiming approximately 240 lives annually in Georgia, according to official state traffic safety data. The persistent fatality levels—234 deaths in 2020, 244 in 2021, and 237 in 2022—highlight an ongoing crisis as new legislation significantly reduces legal protections for crash victims.

The data disconnect became evident following the August

15, 2025 [eight-vehicle crash on Interstate 75 in Clayton County](#) that engulfed multiple vehicles in flames and blocked southbound lanes for nearly four hours during morning rush hour. The incident exemplifies a troubling pattern where commercial trucking accidents increasingly involve multiple casualties and extended highway closures.

Federal Enforcement Reveals Widespread Industry Violations

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) investigators discovered over 50,000 violations across 8,340 trucking company investigations in 2025, averaging six violations per investigation. Common violations include maintenance system failures, false duty status records, and inadequate driver qualification protocols, with penalties averaging \$7,155 per violation and reaching \$125,000.

These findings emerge as Georgia experiences continued serious trucking incidents, including the Gordon County I-75 crash that resulted in three fatalities. Recent holiday travel periods show concerning fatality rates, with 13 during Independence Day, and 14 during Memorial Day.

Georgia Legislative Changes Limit Victim Compensation

On April 21, 2025, Governor Brian Kemp signed comprehensive tort reform legislation that fundamentally alters how trucking accident victims can seek compensation. The new laws restrict damage calculations to "actual costs paid" rather than billed amounts, modify pain and suffering determinations, and stay discovery proceedings while motions to dismiss are

pending.

"The timing of these legislative changes creates unprecedented challenges for families devastated by trucking accidents," said Matt Kahn, a personal injury attorney with Butler Kahn in Atlanta. "While federal data shows thousands of safety violations and persistent fatality rates, Georgia has simultaneously reduced legal remedies available to victims."

Trucks Involved in 14% of State Traffic Deaths

[Commercial trucks are involved in 14% of all state traffic fatalities](#) despite representing a much smaller percentage of vehicles on the road. Of particular concern, 86% of truck-related crashes in Georgia involve multiple vehicles, often resulting in complex emergency response scenarios and extended highway closures.

Interstate 75 has emerged as a particularly dangerous corridor, with multiple fatal incidents throughout 2025 demonstrating the persistent safety challenges facing Georgia's busiest commercial trucking routes.

Corporate Response Protocols Create Uneven Playing Field

Commercial trucking companies have developed sophisticated post-accident response protocols that include dispatching investigation teams to crash sites within hours of incidents. These corporate response teams systematically document crash scenes and collect evidence as part of standard risk management procedures, often arriving before victims receive adequate legal counsel.

"Trucking companies deploy investigation teams faster than many families can even process what's happened to them," Kahn observed. "This creates a fundamentally uneven playing field where billion-dollar corporations can immediately begin building their defense while victims are still in the hospital."

Industry Financial Pressures Drive Safety Concerns

While the trucking industry reports spending \$14 billion annually on safety programs, operating costs have reached \$2.27 per mile, with insurance expenses increasing significantly. Operating margins have compressed to 6% or lower across fleet sizes, with some sectors posting negative margins.

Industry analysts suggest these financial pressures may contribute to systemic cost-cutting in areas where safety violations might go undetected until accidents occur. The pattern of recurring FMCSA violations for maintenance failures and regulatory compliance supports this concern.

Legal Landscape Shift

"Georgia families now face a perfect storm," Kahn explained. "Truck fatalities remain at consistently deadly levels, federal enforcement is finding thousands of violations annually, and the state has simultaneously reduced legal protections for victims while strengthening corporate

defenses."

The convergence of persistent fatality rates, extensive federal violations, and new legal limitations has created an environment where trucking accident victims face unprecedented challenges in seeking accountability from commercial defendants.

According to traffic safety experts, immediate legal representation has become crucial for crash victims to preserve evidence and understand their rights under Georgia's modified legal framework, particularly given the sophisticated corporate response protocols deployed by trucking companies.

About Matt

Matt Kahn is a top-rated personal injury lawyer and partner at Butler Kahn, one of Atlanta's leading law firms for wrongful death and catastrophic injury cases. Recognized for his results-driven approach and relentless advocacy, Matt represents individuals and families across Georgia who have suffered life-altering injuries or the loss of a loved one due to someone else's negligence. Since joining Butler Kahn in 2019, Matt has helped secure justice in high-stakes cases involving car accidents, truck crashes, and complex wrongful death claims. In 2024, he was honored as one of the Daily Report's "On the Rise" attorneys, highlighting him as one of the top lawyers under 40 in the Southeast. Known for his strategic litigation skills, compassion for clients, and courtroom success, Matt is a go-to choice for those seeking elite personal injury representation in Georgia. Learn more at <https://butlerfirm.com/our-team/matt-kahn/>

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