



TACT

KEEPING UTAH DRIVERS SAFE

In 2007, large trucks were involved in 1,731 fatal and non-fatal crashes on Utah's roadways. While that statistic is staggering, the fact that it is a 46 percent increase from the 1,184 crashes in 2006 is even more shocking. These crashes are not just simple inconveniences that snarl traffic and block roadways, but rather, given that two-thirds of them involve automobiles, each one becomes a reminder of the importance of driving safely on the roads.

THE TACT PROGRAM

In an effort to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries resulting from large truck crashes, many states, including Utah, are implementing a high visibility traffic enforcement program called TACT. This program, which stands for Targeting Aggressive Cars and Trucks, is a three-pronged effort to raise awareness for safe driving behaviors.

THE THREE ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL TACT PROGRAM

A successful TACT program relies on enforcement, communication and evaluation to help reduce the number of large truck crashes. As law enforcement officials actively stop those who exhibit unsafe driving behaviors, communication efforts attract attention to the campaign by educating the public on the importance of roadway safety and the fact that it is being enforced. These two efforts work together to curtail dangerous driving, while the evaluation phase allows for feedback and adjustments to the program itself, thereby allowing it to be tailored specifically to a state's needs.

BENEFITS OF USING TACT

As the Utah Highway Patrol and the UDOT Motor Carrier Division combine efforts to launch the TACT program in 2010, they hope to inform commercial and private vehicle drivers of unsafe behaviors that lead to large truck crashes, create awareness that they are actively penalizing such behavior, and thereby increase safe driving habits. This, in turn, will result in fewer crashes on the roadways, which makes travel better and safer for everyone.

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www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety-security

UNSAFE DRIVING BEHAVIORS

- *Unsafe lane changes*
- *Tailgating*
- *Failing to signal lane changes*
- *Failing to yield the right of way*
- *Speeding*
- *Aggressive driving (a combination of two or more of the above behaviors)*

Statistics pulled from: http://ai.volpe.dot.gov/CrashProfile/st_overview.ASP