



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

# Fatigue as a Distraction

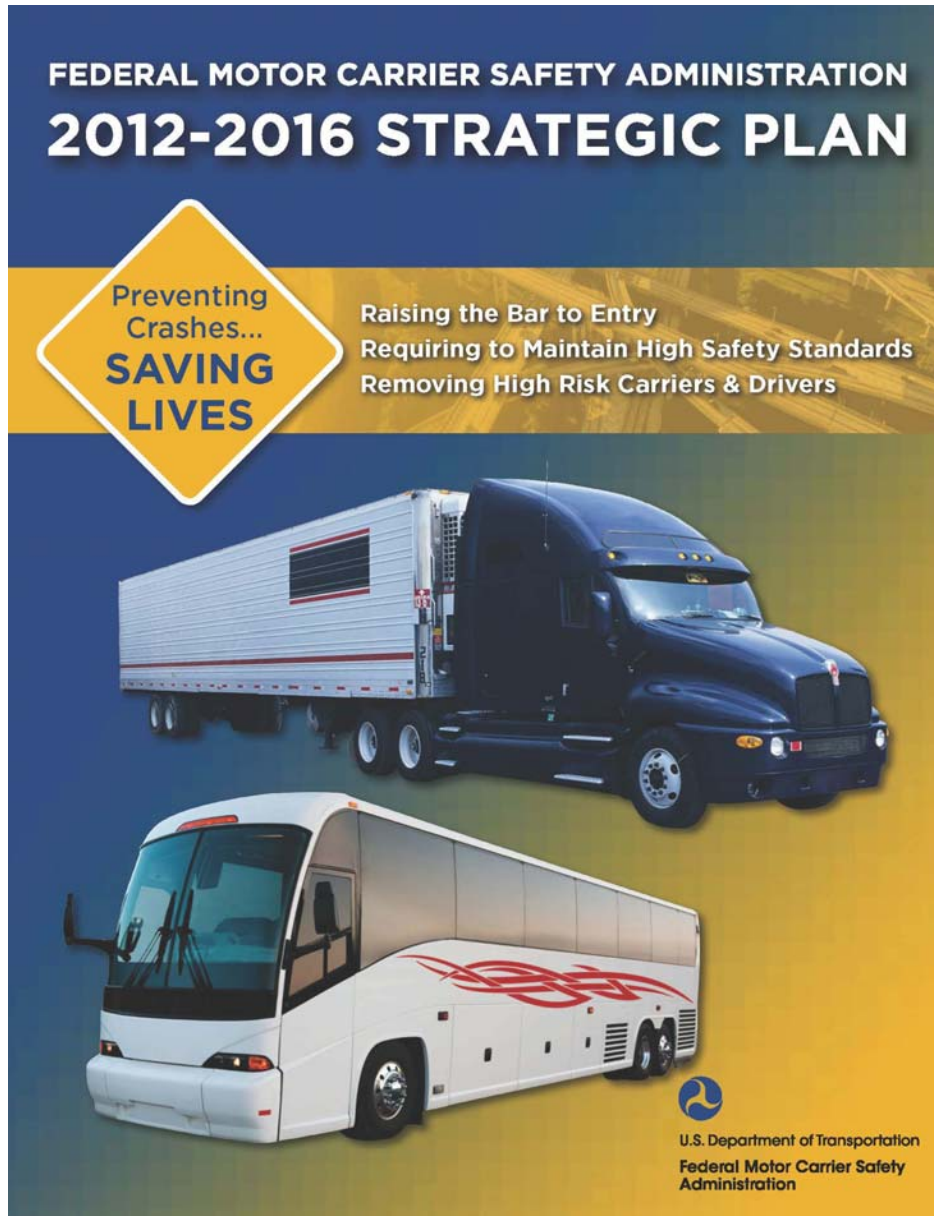
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Governors Highway Safety Association  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
Nashville, TN  
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# Our Mission



Safety is our highest priority:

Reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving CMV transportation through *education, innovation, regulation, enforcement, financial assistance, partnerships, and full accountability.*

# The Problem

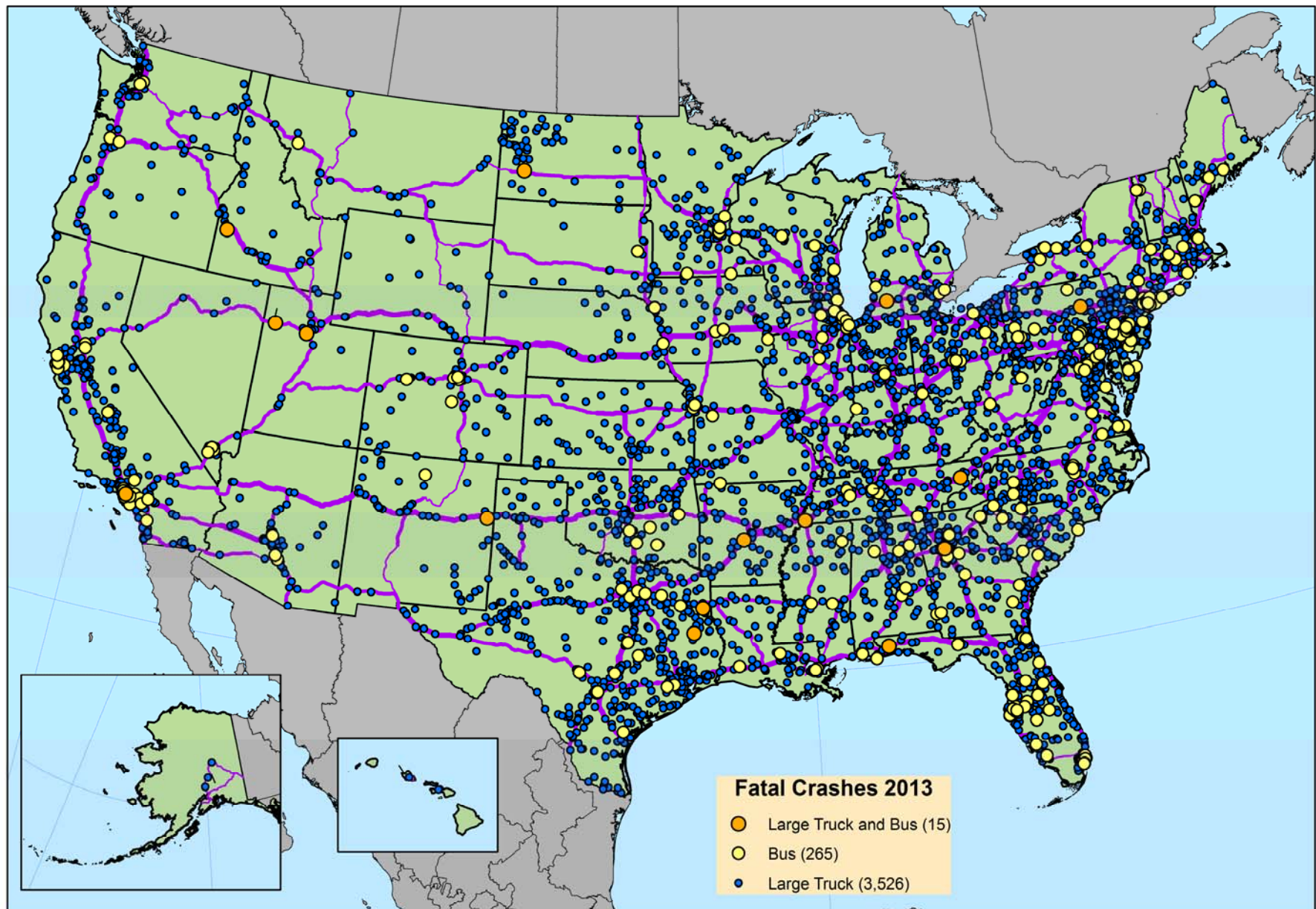
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## NHTSA 2013 FARS data showed:

- **32,719** people lost their lives on America's roadways in motor vehicle crashes
- **3,964** from crashes involving a large truck
- **310** from crashes involving a bus
- **691** or 16% of fatalities in large truck crashes were large truck occupants



## Large Truck and Bus Fatal Crashes 2013



## Driver Fatigue and Crash Risk Data

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**The 2011 Hours of Service rulemaking cited research showing fatigue as a factor in crashes:**

- The Large Truck Crash Causation Study estimated that fatigue was a factor in 13 percent of crashes involving a large truck.
- A sleep study showed that drivers who obtained less than 7 hours in bed at night suffered degraded performance.
- Another study examining truck driver logs and safety performance found incidents of driver error and lane tracking deviations more likely to occur towards the end of a shift.

## Recent Crashes, Part I

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**We continue to see too many fatigue-related crashes:**



- June 26 on I-75 near Chattanooga, TN, a truck triggered an 11-vehicle crash in a work zone, killing six and injuring four.
  - According to the NTSB, the driver had been on duty for 50 consecutive hours, was off-duty for 12 hours, and then on-duty almost 15 hours when the crash occurred.

## Recent Crashes, part II



Photo credit: Washington State Patrol

- On March 5 on I-97 in Washington State, a truck driver crossed the center line and crashed head-on with a passenger vehicle, killing the driver. The truck then careened into a school bus carrying more than 40 children, none seriously injured.
- Officials suspected driver fatigue to be a factor.



## Recent Crashes, Part III



Source: Albany Times-Union

On December 16, 2013, New York State Trooper David Cunniff, 35, was killed in a secondary crash. The eight-year veteran of the NY State Police had stopped a speeding vehicle on the NY State Thruway. He was parked on the shoulder when a tractor trailer driver hit his cruiser from behind.

- At time of crash, driver Gary Blakley was over his HOS limit of 14 hours.
- Plead guilty to negligent homicide and aggravated manslaughter, faces 3.5 years in prison. Sentencing September 1.



## Current Driver Fatigue Research

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- **CMV Driver Restart study** -- Naturalistic study comparing the impacts of the restart provisions before and after July 1, 2013. Data collection completed soon.
- **HOS Impacts Study** – Analyzes crash data and driver logs to measure impact of new HOS provisions on safety, driver schedules, industry costs, and highway traffic.
- **Flexible Sleeper Berth Pilot Program** -- Pilot program to examine flexibility in HOS rules with safety outcomes.
- Working with **National Academy of Sciences** to identify research methodologies to better understand driver fatigue.
  - The report should be out later this year.

## North American Fatigue Management Program

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- With our Canadian partners and others, produced North American Fatigue Management Program:
  - Features 10 instructional modules for drivers, their families, safety managers, dispatchers, and company owners.
  - Includes Return-On-Investment Calculator for company executives to determine financial benefits of such a program.
- It is available for free at [www.nafmp.org](http://www.nafmp.org).

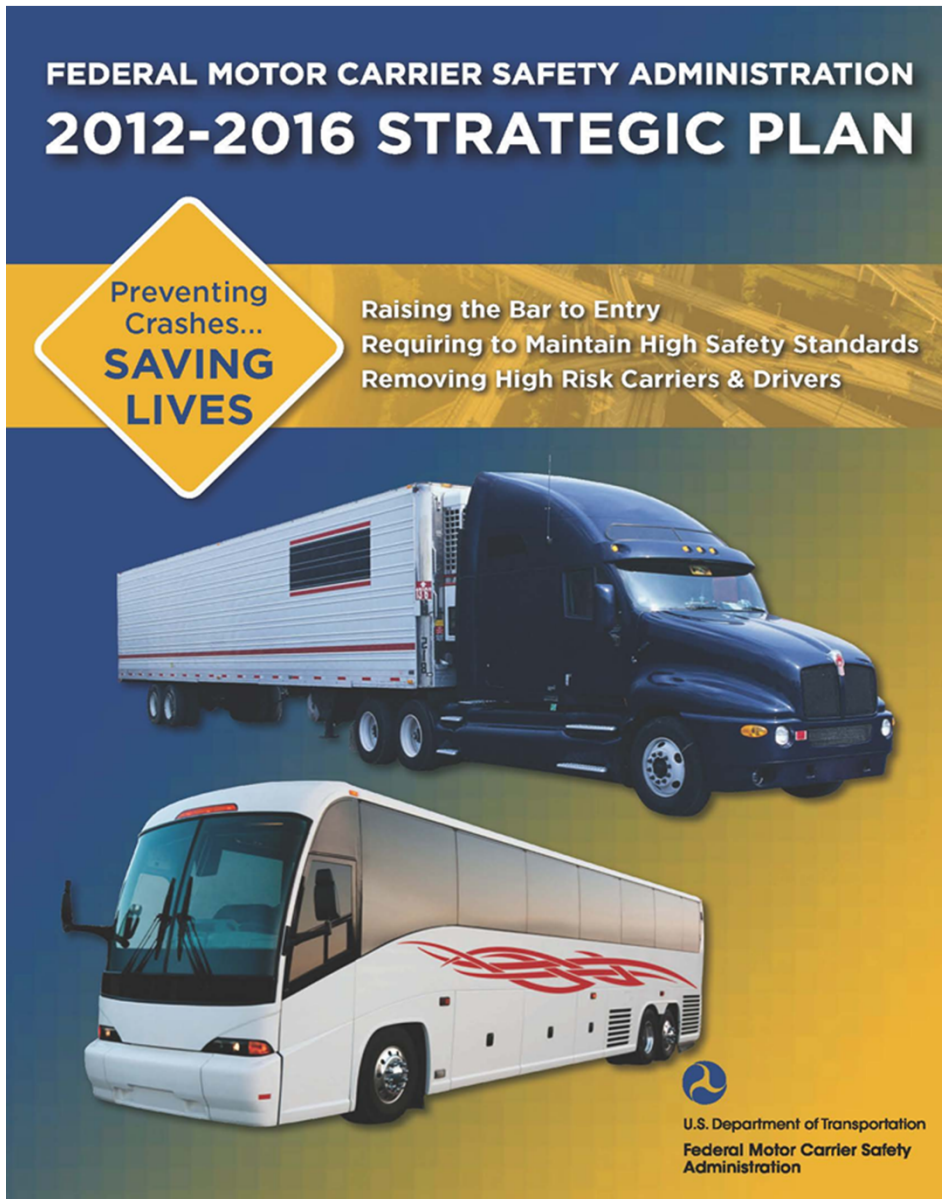
# Work Zone Safety Update

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- **Fatal work zone crashes are more than twice as likely to involve a truck as fatal crashes in general.**
- **In 2013, 146 of the 527 fatal work zone crashes involved a large truck.**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percentage of Fatal Work-Zone Crashes that Involved at Least One Large Truck	22.2%	22.5%	27.2%	23.8%	27.7%
Percentage of ALL Fatal Crashes that Involved at Least One Large Truck	9.7%	10.8%	11.3%	11.2%	11.8%

# Our Vision



Save lives by striving toward a *crash-free* and *fully accountable* CMV transportation life-cycle.