

'Operation Safe Driver' promoting commercial motor vehicle safety

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) will conduct high-visibility enforcement operations as it participates in the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) "Operation Safe Driver" week.

Look for enforcement activities to be conducted statewide on highways and local roads.

Each year more than 36,000 people die in traffic crashes on roadways throughout North America.

Many of these crashes are the direct result of unsafe and aggressive driving by both passenger and commercial vehicle drivers.

During the week of October 16-22, the NSP will join law enforcement from across North America in an effort to reduce crash causing behaviors during "Operation Safe Driver".

"Troopers will be looking to raise awareness of the importance commercial motor vehicle drivers play in preventing fatality crashes," said Captain Gerry Krolikowski, Carrier Enforcement Division Commander.

"Through driver and vehicle inspections we will look to educate as well as enforce traffic safety laws."

In 2010, Troopers placed 44 vehicles and 37 drivers out of service during "Operation Safe Driver" enforcement. In addition, 729 traffic violations and warnings were issued to both commercial and passenger vehicles.

The Nebraska State Patrol shares the following safety tips for motorists driving near a big truck:

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- Stay out of the No-Zone. No-Zones are actual blind spots where the car

disappears from the view of the truck driver.

- Stay visible! Large trucks need a much longer braking distance than a car.

Don't cut into a trucks' space; if this happens it reduces a trucks' much needed braking distance and restricts evasive action.

- Don't tailgate a truck. The further you are away from a truck the less likely you will be involved in a collision.

- Don't speed. Obey all posted speed limits

- Allow plenty of room. Large trucks are almost as wide as your lane of travel. Pacing too close behind one prevents you from reacting to changing traffic conditions and patterns.

- Buckle-up. Wearing your seat belt is the single most important thing you can do to save your life in a crash.

The NSP encourages you to protect yourself and your passengers by avoiding distractions and learning to share the road with all vehicles.