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More Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Are Buckling Up

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JEFFERSON CITY, MO – More commercial motor vehicle drivers are buckling up. The results of the 2010 Missouri Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Belt Survey are in, and overall seat belt use rose from 73.4 percent in 2008 to 80.6 percent in 2010.

“The trucking industry has taken the lead in buckling up and encourages all Missouri citizens to join us in safety,” said Tom Crawford, President of the Missouri Trucking Association.

Double trailer, bus and box trailer drivers showed the most improvement and double trailer drivers were most often buckled up. Dump truck drivers’ seat belt usage was the lowest at 57.5 percent.

CMV drivers spend entire work days behind the wheel. With so much time spent in their vehicle, it’s important that they protect themselves by buckling up. Seven out of 10 Missourians killed in traffic crashes are unbuckled.

Federal motor carrier regulations make failure to use a seat belt a primary enforcement offense – meaning that an officer can pull a driver over for no other reason than the lack of belt use. A seat belt citation can be costly and affect both drivers’ and companies’ federal safety scores.

“All the statistics show that seat belts are life saving and all the experts agree that buckling up is the best way to protect yourself in a crash, but one in five CMV drivers still don’t despite being the law,” said Leanna Depue, chair of the executive committee of the Coalition. “It is a number we have to keep trying to change. Please buckle up!”

The survey is conducted every other year and involved 18,877 observations of CMV drivers in 76 counties at 250 observational sites. It was paid for with federal highway safety funding.

Law enforcement and the Missouri Department of Transportation work collectively to encourage the use of seat belts among CMV drivers.

To learn more about the benefits of seat belts, visit www.saveMOLives.com.

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