



# Section 13: Accident Countermeasures and Accident Reporting

## Section 13

### Accident Countermeasures

Accident countermeasures must be in place in order to reduce motor carrier accidents by establishing safe driving standards. A preventable accident is one which occurs because the driver fails to act in a reasonably expected manner to prevent it.

**Factors in Crashes:** There are many reasons why crashes occur, including:

- Driving too fast;
- Running off the road or out of traffic; and
- Failure to yield to the right of way.

**Safe Driving Tips:** There are things you can do to reduce the risk of a crash.

- Take care of yourself. Fatigue and lack of attention will increase your risk of crashes. To avoid this, get plenty of rest before driving, eat well and stay fit, and comply with the hours of service regulations.
- Maintain your vehicle. Inspect your vehicle carefully before each trip, and learn how to inspect your brakes, identify safety defects, and get them repaired.
- Be aware of your “No Zone.” Adjust your mirrors and watch out for other vehicles.
- Slowdown in work zones. Stay alert and watch out for highway construction. Take your time and give yourself plenty of room.
- Keep your distance. Always leave enough room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

**Accident Reporting:** Anyone involved in a traffic crash must stop at the crash site. Call for law enforcement and an ambulance if needed. Provide reasonable assistance to anyone who sustained injuries in the crash. All drivers involved in the crash should exchange names, addresses and vehicle license plate numbers, as well as showing driver’s licenses, if requested.