

## Is Your Company Prepared in the Event of an Accident?

Today, more than ever, companies that operate commercial motor vehicles need to prepare in advance for an accident that one of your vehicles may have. Depending on the severity of the accident, just the involvement is enough to confuse the thought process of most drivers and supervisors. Companies need to have a clear and direct plan in place that will be implemented when an accident occurs. This plan needs to be flexible and can be activated no matter what time of the day or night. When an accident occurs, the company has a number of immediate items that need to be addressed.

1. The safety and protection of the driver and public.
2. Protecting the company's liability and physical damage exposure.
3. Provide information to Law Enforcement officials.
4. Control of progressive damage that may occur from the accident, including hazardous material spills, cargo and the vehicles.
5. Compliance with State and Federal Regulations (such as drug and alcohol testing if required).
6. Documenting and protecting the physical evidence at the scene (Spoliation of evidence).
7. Securing witnesses to the accident.
8. Addressing the news media
9. Having your vehicle towed to a safe and secure site.

### Truck Driver Appreciation Week

August 24 - 30, 2008.

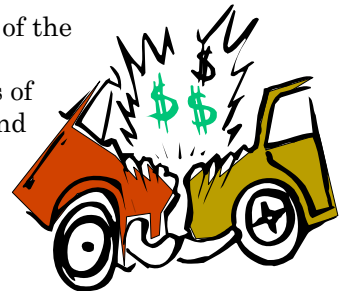
Make your plans now to recognize your drivers. Show them how much you appreciate the work they do everyday.

### CVSA Brake Safety Week

September 21- 27, 2008. The CVSA will be completing additional education and enforcement during this week.

### Recommendations for a company to prepare for an accident:

- Put together an accident response team. Ideally, this team would consist of the safety director, the driver involved, insurance accident investigator, company's attorney, and if needed an accident reconstruction expert.
- Have an accident action plan in place that outlines the direction and responsibilities of the response team.
- Develop a written policy for drivers to follow when involved in an accident regardless of severity. This would include reporting, conduct at the scene, responsibilities, drug and alcohol testing, etc.
- Include accident scene training as part of your new driver orientation program. Drivers should know exactly what to do and what NOT to do in the event of an accident.
- Place Accident Kits in the units. This kit should include a camera, accident report, pencil, and instructions. Place and expiration date on the outside of the kit that coincides with the expiration date of the camera. It is recommended that these kits be sealed or secured so the materials Drivers need to be trained on how to use the camera and which pictures should be taken and which pictures NOT to take.



### Websites to Assist You with Your Accident Investigation and Reporting

Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction [www.actar.org](http://www.actar.org)

At this website, you can download State and Province blank accident reports. Also available is the code overlay sheets for the reports so you can understand the coding on an accident report that you receive from a State or Province. Click on Crash Reports and Overlays on left side of home page.

<http://www.harristechnical.com/downloads/cdrlist.pdf>

At this website, you will find a listing of automobiles 1994 through 2008 with of Event Data Recorders (Black Boxes). Black Box information can be valuable in determining the actions of another vehicle with regards to speed, braking, etc prior to the collision.