

MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET Management Bulletin

FROM THE [LOSS CONTROL DEPARTMENT OF THE HARTFORD](#)

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Driver Behavior

Fleet safety managers should review Motor Vehicle Records for both prospective drivers and periodically for your existing drivers. While there is a question as to whether or not a driver's past record is an indicator of future performance, a recent study verifies a driver's past driving behavior to the likelihood of being involved in a collision in the future. The research arm of the American Trucking Association, the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) conducted a study of over 540,000 drivers over a three-year time period. Data studied included information on specific violations, driver conviction information as well as past accident/collision involvement.

The analysis identified two leading driver behaviors with the highest likelihood of being involved in a future crash are reckless driving and improper turn violations. The odds of a driver being involved in a future crash are increased by 325% for a reckless driving violation and 105% for an improper turn citation.

The four driver violations that increase the odds of being involved in a future crash by 90-100% are:

- Improper or erratic lane change
- Failure to yield the right of way
- Improper turn
- Failure to maintain proper lane.

Fleet safety managers should consider focusing in on driver behaviors as they will have the greatest impact in reducing vehicle collisions. The ATRI study indicates that a successful fleet safety policy should include enforcement programs and strategies for addressing problem driver behaviors including:

- Center in on aggressive driving programs/initiatives
- Target both commercial motor vehicle (CMV) and non-CMV behavior patterns
- Utilize both highly visible and covert enforcement activities
- Incorporate an internal performance-based system for managing enforcement by specific crash types, driver behaviors and locations

An enforcement strategy that focuses in on aggressive driving behaviors should be a key component of a fleet program. Problem behaviors result in reckless driving, speeding, erratic or improper lane changes, following too closely and improper passing.



An audit of your fleet program should determine what if any actions should be taken to mitigate problem driving behaviors.

The below table from ATRI study identifies the increased odds of a crash for the top 10 convictions/violations:

Violation/Conviction	The Crash Likelihood Increases
A Reckless Driving Violation	325%
An Improper Turn Violation	105%
An Improper/Erratic Lane Change Conviction	100%
A Failure to Yield Right of Way Conviction	97%
An Improper Turn Conviction	94%
A Failure to Maintain Proper Lane Conviction	91%
A Past Crash	87%
An Improper Lane Change Violation	78%
A Failure to Yield the Violation	70%
A Driving Too Fast for Conditions Conviction	62%

The full report "*Predicting Truck Crash Involvement: Developing a Commercial Driver Behavior-Based Model and Recommended Countermeasures*" may be found at: www.ATRI-ONLINE.org.

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