



Trucking Safety Notes...

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) plans to conduct a national survey of long-haul truck drivers.

“Truck drivers are at increased risk for numerous preventable diseases and health conditions. Previous research suggests that truck drivers are at increased risk for lower back pain, heart disease, hypertension, stomach ulcers and cancer of the bladder, lung, prostate and stomach,” says NIOSH. “Truck drivers also face extraordinary risk of on-the-job mortality.”

In 2007, the fatality rate for driver/sales workers and truck drivers was 28.2 per 100,000 workers, compared with a rate of 3.8 per 100,000 for all workers. Drivers of heavy and tractor-trailer trucks had more fatal work injuries than any other single occupation, with 822 deaths in 2007.

“Truck drivers experience high rates of occupational injury and illness, but little is known about the prevalence of factors suspected to place them at increased risk,” says NIOSH. “Information is needed on the role of occupation in driver health and on mechanisms of driver injuries.”

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