

Welcome to the 2017 Sorrow to Strength Conference

As the number of truck crashes and the resulting injuries and fatalities continue to rise, addressing truck safety issues is integral to making our highways safe again. In 2015, 4,067 people were killed in crashes involving large trucks, representing a 20 percent increase from 2009. This is the first time truck crash deaths have exceeded 4,000 since 2008. Further, early release data for 2015 shows that there were 415,000 truck crashes, which resulted in 116,000 people injured in crashes involving large trucks -- an increase of 45 and 57 percent since 2009, respectively. The annual cost to society from crashes involving commercial motor vehicles is estimated to be over \$110 billion.

I look forward to our meetings and events during the five days of the conference. Please join us for as much of the conference as your schedule allows. This time provides an opportunity for us to learn from each other and to join together to advocate for real changes for safety. It will also be an opportunity to connect with people from around the country, both long-time volunteers and those new to the conference. It is our goal to make this conference supportive, informative and productive. Please do not hesitate to ask me or any of the TSC staff if you have any questions.

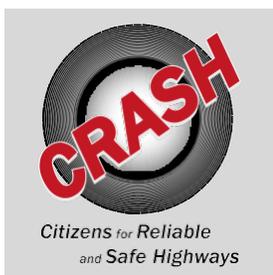
Sincerely,



John Lannen, Executive Director



The Truck Safety Coalition is a partnership between **Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH)** and **Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT)**. The Truck Safety Coalition is dedicated to reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by truck-related crashes, providing compassionate support to truck crash survivors and families of truck crash victims, and educating the public, policy-makers and media about truck safety issues.



Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH) was formed in 1991 and is a nationwide, grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to improving overall truck safety in the U.S. and eliminating the senseless deaths and injuries caused by truck crashes every year. CRASH volunteers work on truck safety issues such as truck size and weight, truck driver fatigue, and crash avoidance technologies.



Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT) was formed in 1994 in response to a devastating crash caused by a truck driver falling asleep at the wheel of his 80,000-pound rig and killing four innocent teenagers. PATT has grown from a grassroots group in Maine to a nationally recognized organization. PATT has been successful in bringing the issue of fatigue to the forefront of truck safety policy discussions, and continues to promote sensible solutions such as automatic emergency braking and rear/side underride guards.