



# The Truck Safety Advocate

A Publication of the Truck Safety Coalition



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P.O. Box 14380  
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P.A.T.T. and CRASH are Non-Profit, Grassroots, Organizations Dedicated to Improving Truck Safety Nationwide.

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## Good News for Safety Groups:

### Anti-Safety Amendments Stopped in H.R.3

Volunteers for P.A.T.T. and CRASH have continued to increase public awareness of attempts by the trucking industry to insert dangerous anti-safety amendments into the Transportation Reauthorization bill H.R.3.

In March 2005, Rep. John Boozman (R-AR), whose congressional district includes Wal-Mart headquarters, sponsored an amendment to the H.R.3 that would have allowed truckers a 16-hour workday as long they took an unpaid two-hour break. P.A.T.T. and CRASH volunteers joined other highway and truck safety groups in a press conference on Capitol Hill highlighting the dangers of the proposed amendment. Faced with strong public opposition and negative publicity, Rep. Boozman's withdrew his amendment before it came to a vote.

During the House and Senate conference on H.R.3, safety groups, including CRASH and P.A.T.T. volunteers successfully fought off numerous amendments that would have rolled back safety, further endangering the lives of truckers and motorists alike. These included attempts by the trucking industry to put into law the unsafe hours of service (HOS) rule overturned by the U.S Courts of Appeals, increases in truck size and weights, and other special interest HOS exemptions. H.R.3 was signed into law August 10th.

Although we were successful in keeping most of these anti-safety provisions out of the recently passed legislation, the fight is not over.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the trucking industry are still trying to put into the federal statute the unsafe HOS rule. Please contact your member of Congress and two U.S Senators and tell them to oppose efforts to codify the HOS rule. Also, attend our Sorrow to Strength Conference on October 15-18, 2005 (see next page for information) and let your voice be heard.

### New Hours of Service Rule: Unchanged and Unsafe

The new Hours Of Service rule recently issued by FMCSA on August 19, 2005 will become effective on October 1st. The new rule is virtually unchanged from the 2003 HOS rule struck down unanimously in July 2004 by a federal court. (For details: [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov))

In July 2004, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) did not take into account the health of truck drivers – as it is required to do under law. At that time, the court ordered FMCSA to revise its current regulations to comply with the court's opinion and thus promote a healthy and safe environment for the driver and the motoring public alike.

Unfortunately the new rule does no such thing. It continues to allow truck drivers to drive 11 hours instead of 10 hours each shift, and permits total weekly driving hours of up to 77 (instead of 60) hours and 88 (instead of 70) hours each work week, while keeping the time off-duty allotment for rest and recovery at an inadequate 34-hours.



## Also in this Issue:

- ▶ Transportation Reauthorization bill (HR3)
- ▶ New HOS — still inadequate
- ▶ 2005 Sorrow to Strength, October 15-18 in Washington, DC area
- ▶ CRASH and P.A.T.T. Volunteer Network.
- ▶ Truck Crash Survivors

The revised rule also included another step backward. Short haul and delivery drivers can work two 16-hour days and do not have to keep a log book, making enforcement nearly impossible. The overall increased driving and working time is not supported by the vast body of scientific literature that exists about fatigue and driver safety. Nor does this proposal help drivers get on a 24-hour circadian schedule.



**October 15-18, 2005**  
**Sorrow to Strength National Conference**  
**of Truck Crash Survivors**  
(registration form included)

The Directors and Staff at CRASH and P.A.T.T. are excited to announce the return of our **Sorrow to Strength National Conference**. This conference is specifically designed for families and friends of those who have lost loved ones or been injured in truck crashes.

The conference will take place at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia, a close suburb of Washington DC, on **October 15-18, 2005**. All those who are concerned about truck safety on our nation's highways are invited to attend. Please fill out and return to us the enclosed reservation form, or call Jessica at 888-353-4572 for more information, or visit our website:

[www.patt.org](http://www.patt.org)

[www.trucksafety.org](http://www.trucksafety.org)

As many of you already know, this event is a gathering of people whose lives have been altered by inadequate truck safety standards in the United States. This conference will be a chance to:

- Share personal stories.
- Learn how to deal with grief and anger.
- Meet others who have suffered a loss similar to yours.

Some truck crash facts:

- ⇒ In 2004, 5,190 people died in truck crashes, an increase of 154 fatalities over 2003. Also, in 2004 there was nearly a 5% increase in the number of truck drivers killed in crashes.
- ⇒ In fatal crashes involving a truck and a passenger vehicle, 98% of those killed are the occupants of the passenger vehicle.
- ⇒ Large trucks make up just 4 percent of all registered vehicles and 7 percent of all vehicle miles traveled, but are involved in 11 percent of all crash fatalities.
- ⇒ The annual death toll from truck-related crashes is the equivalent of a major airline crash every week of the year.
- ⇒ Truck driver fatigue is a major safety problem. Some studies, including two by the NTSB, indicate that truck driver fatigue is a factor in 30 to 40 percent of severe crashes.
- ⇒ The Hours of Service Rule issued in August by the FMCSA will allow truck drivers to drive over 300 hours in a month. Commercial airline pilots often fly only about 30 hours a month.
- ⇒ Several researchers have shown that even small amounts of sleep loss and fatigue result in serious impairment similar to being legally drunk. Two studies showed that the impairment from sleep loss and long working hours were about the same as the slowed mental and reaction times associated with 0.05% blood alcohol, and that being awake for 24 straight hours has about the same dangerous effects as 0.10% blood alcohol—above the level now nationally recognized as being legally drunk (0.08%).

Each year participants visit their members of Congress. There will be nothing as powerful as you sharing your personal story of how your life was dramatically changed by the negligence of others. This will help emphasize the importance of stricter truck safety standards and better enforcement to decision makers on Capitol Hill.

Trucking industry lobbyists are on Capitol Hill every day pushing their agenda - but according to Congressional staffers, Sorrow to Strength participants make a profound impact just by being there one time a year. This is a great opportunity for you and your family to bring the reality of your story to your Members of Congress.

As you go to Capitol Hill to speak to your member of Congress, you will be equipped with the tools to effectively tell your story and to share your priorities about truck safety. If you would prefer being accompanied by an experienced volunteer we would be happy to team you up.

**Previous attendees speak**

*"I have found the Sorrow to Strength conference to be a constructive way to express my feelings of anger about the loss of my father. It means so much to be able to come together with others who have lost loved ones, to remember them, and then to find an outlet for the frustration over a senseless, sudden death.*

*The sad fact is that the trucking companies are counting on you not coming. Their hope is that the trucking industry will be the only voice heard regarding truck safety standards. If we who have suffered don't do something to help prevent future tragic deaths, why would anyone else? Who is going to do something about improving standards if not us?*

*Don't put off attending this year - this conference can be a turnaround, a means to show that your loved ones did not die in vain. You will find that this can be part of the healing process - to find that you are not alone and that you can play an active role in making the highways safer."*

*Jennifer Tierney's father, Jim Mooney, was killed in 1983 in a truck crash.*

*"It had only been a year and a half since my daughter, Teresa, had been killed in a truck crash, and I was in a very dark place. The people at CRASH encouraged me to attend the upcoming Sorrow to Strength conference, but I was convinced that it would be impossible and exhausting, both emotionally and physically. I wondered if it would merely be a "pity party."*

*With persistence, my husband convinced me to go and from the moment I walked into the room, I felt a bond with everyone there, and immediately realized that while our stories were different, we were all suffering from a similar tragedies.*

*With that knowledge, I felt less on the outside looking in, and from that point, I began what was a new process of therapy and comfort. Here was yet another turning point in my life, but one with a slight glimmer of light at the end of the very dark tunnel I believed I was in.*

*In addition, I learned through the training and meetings on Capitol Hill that elected officials wanted to listen to what I had to say, and I felt empowered. I can honestly say that Sorrow to Strength was a turning point for me in the healing process and helped give me the courage to hope for change.*

*Wendy Gholson's daughter, Teresa, age 20, was killed in 1997 in a truck crash.*



## **CRASH & P.A.T.T. Volunteer Network Expanded**

Over the past several years, CRASH and P.A.T.T. have made great strides advancing truck safety. Our success is due to the efforts of our volunteers who have tirelessly continued to fight for the rights of American motorists on our highways.

**Now more than ever, our voices are needed in the truck safety debate!**

Our goal is to strengthen and expand our grassroots network of compassionate and dedicated truck safety volunteers. We all share common goals:

- 1) Provide support and information to truck crash victims and their families;
- 2) Make U.S. highways safer for the driving public through the passage of truck safety laws;
- 3) Broaden the base of support for truck safety;
- 4) Educate concerned citizens on how and why to become involved in the truck safety debate in state capitals and the U.S Congress.
- 5) Educate and influence our elected officials.

### **Join Our Volunteer Network!**

A few hours a month can make a difference!

We are asking everyone who is interested in advancing truck safety to serve as a member of this network. Depending upon the role you choose to take on, your responsibilities will vary. Some of the positions we are looking to fill include:

- State Coordinator** - Organize Lead Volunteers in your state
- Lead Advocate** - Organize Local Volunteers in your area
- Local Volunteer** - Provide a grassroots voice

### **You choose the role that best fits your schedule and interest!**

Another key role for many of our volunteers is serving in our **First Response** program. This program serves as a means to reach out to new truck crash victims and families, offering compassionate support and advice when they need it most from someone who has experienced a similar tragedy.

We must continue to speak out against the dangerous anti-safety agenda of special trucking interests. To make that possible, the network relies on dedicated volunteers like you from all over the United States.

**Please fill out and return to our office the volunteer form enclosed, we need everyone.**

**Do not delay!**

**The Volunteer Form is located on the back of the registration form enclosed**

### **New Staff Announcement**

**We are pleased to welcome:**

**John Lannen**, Executive Director.

**Jessica Rudman**, Staff Assistant.

Please feel free to contact them at:

1-888-353-4572 or at

[jlannen@trucksafety.org](mailto:jlannen@trucksafety.org)

or

[jrudman@trucksafety.org](mailto:jrudman@trucksafety.org)

To contact your Member of Congress in the House and Senate, go to the Library of Congress website:

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

This website contains mailing and e-mail address information for members of Congress.

## **E-mail Makes a Difference**

**Why do we need you to forward us your e-mail address?**

Did you know???

- ▶ CRASH and P.A.T.T. regularly send out e-mail Action Alerts requesting urgent responses to important issues that impacts truck safety.
- ▶ When legislators hear from CRASH and P.A.T.T members they listen!
- ▶ Using email helps keep our costs down instead of having to rely on mailings.



**By providing your e-mail address to CRASH and P.A.T.T. you will be lending your support to improving truck safety. Please forward your e-mail address to us today at [CRASH@trucksafety.org](mailto:CRASH@trucksafety.org) or [PATT@trucksafety.org](mailto:PATT@trucksafety.org) to get connected! E-mail addresses are never sold or distributed to outside organizations or agencies.**

## I Want to Join the Survivors Network / First Response Team

Please return in enclosed envelope with your conference registration and your contribution

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### About the crash

Date and location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type, size, weight of truck: \_\_\_\_\_  
What happened: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Volunteer Network: I need information on:

State Coordinator

Lead Advocate

Local Volunteer

Letter Writing: \_\_\_\_\_ Assisting new survivors & families: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phoning: \_\_\_\_\_ Sending to DC office name & address of victims  
Participating in media events: \_\_\_\_\_ from local crashes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attending national conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Helping with fundraising: \_\_\_\_\_  
Talking to my elected officials: Locally: \_\_\_\_\_ I will need training in: \_\_\_\_\_  
Travel to DC: \_\_\_\_\_  
Community organizing: \_\_\_\_\_

Who represents you in Congress? Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Senators: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you met with them in the past? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you want to meet with them? \_\_\_\_\_

### Truck Safety Coalition

\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my credit card: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MC \_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_ American Express

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make my contribution In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

My/my spouse's company will match my gift:

Company's name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please visit your company's Human Resources office to complete the necessary forms to ensure  
The CRASH Foundation or P.A.T.T. receives a matching gift.)

Add me to the P.A.T.T./CRASH E-mail Alert List (please PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: CRASH/P.A.T.T.—PO Box 14380—Washington, D.C. 20044-4380

Thank you for your help.

# Truck Crash Survivors Guide

## You are not alone ...

Contact CRASH and P.A.T.T. at (888) 353-4572 to contact a network volunteer. Our national network of volunteers are actual truck crash victims working to help you.

### Practical Tips for Survivors

- ⇒ Take care of yourself
- ⇒ Do not be made to feel guilty
- ⇒ Make sure you have someone to talk to
- ⇒ Ask for help from people you trust: a close friend, a relative, or a volunteer from CRASH and P.A.T.T.
- ⇒ It is important that you hire an attorney who is very experienced in handling truck crash cases to protect and pursue your own investigation of the case.
- ⇒ Ask to speak with prior clients about the handling of their truck crash cases.

### Crucial Information

The days and weeks following the crash require important decisions and careful attention to detail.

- ⇒ Ask for help from people you can trust
- ⇒ Never sign anything under pressure—ask for our helpful suggestions to consider when choosing an attorney
- ⇒ Take photographs and/or video of the crash site and the vehicles involved
- ⇒ Do not sell or otherwise dispose of the vehicle involved in the truck crash
- ⇒ Legal proceedings after a truck crash generally take two forms: a criminal case and a civil case
- ⇒ Collect and preserve evidence after the crash
- ⇒ Contact the investigating authority immediately

For detailed information, please ask us for our Truck Crash Survivor Guide brochure or print it from our websites: [www.patt.org](http://www.patt.org) and [www.trucksafety.org](http://www.trucksafety.org)

Working together... we can save lives!

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Here

**P.A.T.T. and CRASH**  
P.O. Box 14380  
Washington, D.C. 20044-4380  
(888) 353-4572

# Sorrow to Strength 2005 Registration Form

Hyatt Arlington Hotel-October 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209 (outside D.C.)

## Personal Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (Please PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Guests:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** I will attend the Fall 2005 Sorrow to Strength Conference.

For hotel reservations, contact Jessica Rudman at 1-888-353-4572 or return this form to by mail:  
CRASH/PATT— P.O. Box 14380, Washington, DC 20044-4380 or by FAX: 202-232-4661

**NO!** I will not be able to attend the Fall 2005 Sorrow to Strength Conference.  
However, I would like to sponsor this incredibly important event with my donation as indicated below.

## Room Reservation Information:

**Yes,** I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ (number of rooms)

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Room \$149.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Triple Room \$174.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Double Room \$149.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Quad Room \$199.00

at the Hyatt Arlington Hotel for the following nights:

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday Oct 14th \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Oct 15<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Oct 16<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Monday Oct 17<sup>th</sup>

**I will be traveling alone and would like to be placed in a room with another individual.**

## Payment Information (needed to reserve your room):

**Visa**  **MC**  **Amex**  **Discover**

I understand that the rate is \$\_\_\_\_\_ per room per night (tax not included), unless sharing a double with another individual, in which case it will be \$74.50 per room per night.

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Donation Information to support the Conference:

I would like to donate to the Truck Safety Coalition to support the Conference

**\$100 - Advocate**  **\$250- Bronze**  **\$500 - Silver**

**\$1,000 - Gold**  **\$2,500- Founders**  **\$ 5,000 - Platinum**

## Donation Payment:

I would like to contribute via credit card:

**Visa**  **MC**  **Amex**  **Discover**

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  I would like to contribute with my enclosed check!

Please return this form to: CRASH/P.A.T.T, PO Box 14380, Washington, D.C. 20044-4380 or fax to 202-232-4661