

Narrative and quantitative analyses of workers' compensation-covered injuries in short-haul vs. long-haul trucking

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ABSTRACT

Problem: Trucking remains one of the most dangerous industries in the US. Study aims were to 1) identify differences in worker injury types; 2) describe typical injury scenarios; and (3) recommend injury control measures, in short-haul vs. long-haul trucking.

Methods: Narrative text analyses of Kentucky short-haul and long-haul trucking workers' compensation first reports of injury were performed.

Results: A higher percentage of lifting and cranking injuries were identified in short-haul trucking compared with long-haul trucking that had a higher percentage of securing/opening/closing/adjusting injuries that involved tarping, trailer door handling, and cab slippage. In contrast, a higher proportion of short-haul trucking injury scenarios involved vehicle roadway departures and rear-end collisions.

Conclusions: Study findings can be used to inform intrastate vs. interstate trucking injury prevention control strategies such as an enhanced driver safety training and safe freight handling in short-haul trucking, and tarping, trailer safety, and cab safety in long-haul trucking.

Table 2. Injury Characteristics of Short-haul vs. Long-haul Trucking, 2012.

Injury Characteristic	Short-haul Trucking	Long-haul Trucking	<i>p</i> -value ^a
Injury Activity	n= 284	n= 455	
Lifting/Cranking	88 (31%)	110 (24%)	0.003
Securing/Opening/Closing/Adjusting	56 (20%)	127 (28%)	
Truck Operation	43 (15%)	42 (9%)	
Maneuvering Into/Out of Truck Cab	34 (12%)	47 (10%)	
Other	63 (22%)	127 (28%)	
Top Causes of Injury			
Strain	103 (36%)	158 (35%)	0.318
Fall, Slip, or Trip	57 (20%)	101 (22%)	
Motor Vehicle	49 (17%)	59 (13%)	
All Other	75 (26%)	137 (30%)	
Injured Body Part			
Upper Extremities	71 (25%)	113 (25%)	0.529
Lower Extremities	60 (21%)	123 (27%)	
Back	57 (20%)	81 (18%)	
Multiple Body Parts	43 (15%)	67 (15%)	
Other Soft Tissue & Organs	24 (8%)	35 (8%)	
Other	29 (10%)	36 (8%)	
Nature of Injury			
Sprain/Strain/Tear	127 (45%)	236 (52%)	0.294
Other	74 (26%)	106 (23%)	
Contusion	34 (12%)	51 (11%)	
Fracture	25 (9%)	36 (8%)	
Multiple Injuries	24 (8%)	26 (6%)	

^aChi-square test