



Highway 99 Big Rig Accident Kills One

by [Injury Attorneys Sacramento](#) on 10/27/10

One person died and five were seriously injured Wednesday in a [big rig accident on Highway 99](#) in Modesto. At approximately 1:50 p.m., a big rig traveling south bound failed to slow for traffic ahead and struck a Nissan Frontier from behind, triggering a five vehicle chain reaction collision. The male driver of the Nissan Frontier was pronounced dead at the scene. His female passenger was taken to a local hospital with major injuries. Four people in other vehicles also sustained injuries.

California Truck Accidents

Rear end collisions are the most common type of [injury accident](#). Traveling at an unsafe speed or simply not paying attention are the most common causes. If the driver of a vehicle pays attention to traffic conditions, drives at a safe speed, and maintains a safe distance behind the vehicle ahead, these collisions are easily avoidable. In almost every situation, the vehicle that hits another vehicle from behind has violated California Vehicle Code §22350, and is legally responsible for causing the collision.

There is a common perception that these type of collisions are merely accidents, are forgivable, and that victims too often try to take advantage by claiming compensation for whiplash. However, the reality is that these collisions can and do cause major catastrophic injuries and, as this collision illustrates, death. This is especially true when the vehicle causing the rear end collision is a big rig.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 5,374 people were killed during 1998 in collisions involving large trucks. In those fatal collisions, 86 percent of the victims were occupants of another vehicle. Because of their size, big-rigs represent an

especially dangerous threat on the roadways. In many instances, the conduct of the big-rig driver and/or their employer can greatly increase the risk to the general motoring public. Statistics show that many of the *big-rig collisions* resulting in injury or fatality are caused in part by the following:

- Truck driver fatigue caused by driving long hauls while failing to comply with minimum sleep and continuous driving regulations;
- Use of drugs by drivers to assist in driving long hours and for recreation and failure to maintain an effective drug testing program;
- Failure to maintain the tires, brakes and other mechanical conditions of the tractors and trailers through minimum required inspections;
- Trucks with loads that over the weight limit or that are subject to shifting due to improper balance or lack of restraint;
- Excessive speeding and other driving violations often ignored by the employer;
- Lack of training and minimum experience requirements.
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Unfortunately, the victims and their families of a [big-rig or truck collision](#) often have a difficult time obtaining fair compensation, sometimes because the trucker is from out of state and the insurance company is an obscure commercial carrier with experience in avoiding payment of claims. Injured victims or the family of a deceased victim are urged to obtain the legal assistance of an experienced California [Personal Injury Attorney](#) who will investigate the causes of the collision, protect the rights of injured person or of the deceased's family, and make sure that they receive adequate compensation for all of the consequences of the collision.

Contact Our Personal Injury Lawyers

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