



September 2017

with Carrier Services

## Preventing School Bus Collisions in Alberta

September is back to school month and the Government of Alberta is reminding all road users of the importance of school bus safety.

Alberta Education statistics indicate that almost 100,000 students are transported over 60 million kilometers in rural Alberta. School bus carriers in the province have a responsibility to ensure each one of those students is transported safely to and from school every day.

Between 2010 and 2015, 2,609 school buses were involved in a reportable collision in Alberta. 254 of these collisions involved an injury or a fatality. The majority of these collisions (50.1%) occurred when road surface conditions were reported as dry.

### How can school bus carriers help prevent collisions?

- Ensure all drivers are trained in National Safety Code requirements (e.g. hours of service, trip inspections, defensive driving, etc.);
- Provide additional training as required (e.g. S Endorsement within 12 months of hire, Q Endorsement, passenger management, etc.);
- Monitor the safety performance and compliance of drivers to safety laws (e.g. review Carrier Profile, Driver Abstracts, etc.);
- Take corrective action where safety and compliance concerns have been identified;
- Ensure all policies from safety and maintenance programs are being effectively implemented.

The majority of collisions are preventable. It is important that school bus carriers ensure their drivers have the training and knowledge needed to get Alberta's most precious cargo to school safely.

More information about school bus operators and refresher training material is available online at: [transportation.alberta.ca/4193.htm](http://transportation.alberta.ca/4193.htm)

More information about National Safety Code requirements is available online at: [transportation.alberta.ca/671.htm](http://transportation.alberta.ca/671.htm)

## Electronic Logging Devices in the News

In December, 2016 the United States announced requirements for the mandatory use of Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) by drivers operating commercial vehicles. Carriers and drivers operating in the United States must be in compliance with the [ELD rule](#) by December of this year. This rule includes Alberta-plated carriers who operate vehicles into the United States.

For more information about ELD requirements for carriers operating in the United States, visit: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/hours-service/elds/implementation-timeline>

Since announcing mandatory ELDs in the United States, there has been some confusion over when and how Canada may implement a similar rule. Currently ELDs are not mandatory for carriers operating only in Canada.

Discussions on approaches to adopt mandatory ELDs in Canada are ongoing. Canadian jurisdictions continue to participate in meetings with the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators to discuss requirements for ELDs and examine how they should be regulated in Canada to minimize barriers to Canada-U.S. trade.

Transport Canada has included plans for mandatory ELDs in the [Forward Regulatory Plan: 2017-19](#), but this is still under review and dates for when or how this may happen have not been released. Carriers can monitor the Transport Canada website and the [Canada Gazette](#) for updates about ELDs in Canada.

The approach to ELDs identified at a national level will help inform discussions regionally and provincially. The Government of Alberta will provide updates to commercial carriers in the province as more information is released.

# Intelligent Transportation Systems

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) are advanced and emerging technologies applied in transportation to help save lives, time, money, energy and the environment. ITS devices can be installed in vehicles, roads, bridges and terminals to collect information on road and weather conditions, traffic speed, volume, delays, and other factors.

## How are we using ITS in Alberta?

The Government of Alberta currently has a number of ITS initiatives underway.

Examples include:

- **ACTIVE-AURORA** is Canada's first and only operational connected vehicle test bed network. Simply stated, connected vehicle technologies allow vehicles to communicate with each other and the world around them. Connected Vehicle systems have the potential to transform the way we travel through the creation of a safe, interoperable wireless communication network.
- The **Smart Roadside Inspection System** is an electronic management and enforcement system designed to automatically identify high-risk and problematic commercial vehicles from the roadside without interfering with the flow of commerce. The system can

screen a commercial vehicle passing through a vehicle inspection station in three seconds versus having to conduct a full manual inspection that can take up to forty-five minutes.

- **511 Alberta** is a system that provides Albertans with current information on highway conditions, weather information, construction updates, incident reports, ferry crossing times, national/provincial parks information, and border crossing wait times.
- **Alberta's Road Weather Information System** provides detailed road and weather forecasts for road maintenance crews to better plan for winter road maintenance. This tool also provides real-time weather information for the public via 511 Alberta.

Going into the future, the Government of Alberta is committed to enhancing and furthering the use of ITS in Alberta. The province is conducting research into technologies such as Platooning, Automated Vehicles, and other strategies that might be incorporated into the province's long term transportation strategy.

For more information about Intelligent Transportation Systems in Alberta, visit [transportation.alberta.ca/606.htm](http://transportation.alberta.ca/606.htm).

## DID YOU KNOW?



Representatives from western Canadian jurisdictions will be meeting in October to discuss National Safety Code (NSC) programs and initiatives.

Through increased collaboration, western Canadian jurisdictions can more effectively address common issues and challenges that have an impact on the commercial transportation industry.



The World's Largest Truck Convoy for Special Olympics is an annual event which unites law enforcement and truckers to raise funds for Special Olympics athletes.

This year, the convoy in Alberta is taking place in Calgary on September 16, 2017.

For more information, visit: <https://amta.ca/event/worlds-largest-truck-convoy-calgary/>

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# Collision Prevention Strategies

A carrier has been involved in a collision. Their driver has been injured, four points have been added to their Carrier Profile, they now face a number of costs related to the collision, and the company's reputation is now under public scrutiny.

This is a challenge often faced by National Safety Code carriers in Alberta. How can they prevent these type of incidents from happening again?

- Investigate collisions for root cause;
- Identify trends that may be corrected through training or policy/procedural improvements;
- Review safety and maintenance programs for effectiveness and identify areas for continuous improvement;

- Understand the difference between preventability and fault;
- Evaluate driver performance and identify possible learning gaps;
- Provide training, re-training, or other remedial action as necessary;
- Ensure regular preventative maintenance is performed on company vehicles;
- Take a proactive approach to prevent incidents rather than reacting to them.

According to the [National Safety Council](http://www.nsc.org), motor vehicle collisions are the number one cause of workplace death. Now more than ever carriers must be diligent in helping to prevent those collisions from occurring.

For more information about collision preventability, visit: [nsc.org](http://nsc.org).