Commercial Truck & Bus Safety Synthesis Program (CTBSSP) Project MC-25 on:

Safety Management in Small Motor Carriers

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TRB Truck & Bus Safety (ANB70) Committee Meeting
October 31, 2011
Participants

• Researchers:
  – Authors: Ron Knipling, Kenna Nelson
  – Supervising Lit Review: Dr. Steve Burks, University of Minnesota at Morris
  – Prime contractor: Mr. Gene Bergoffen, Maineway Services

• Survey support from trade associations:
  – American Bus Association (ABA)
  – Bus Industry Safety Council (BISC)
  – National Association of Small Trucking Companies (NASTC)
  – Owner-Operator Independent Driver Association (OOIDA)
  – United Motorcoach Association (UMA)

• Motor carrier owners/managers via project surveys & case study interviews
Safety Management in Small Motor Carriers (MC-25)

• Review research on:
  • Motor carrier safety management
  • Small company management
  • Small motor carrier safety management.

• Survey of small carrier managers.

• Case study interviews with 10 small company managers to identify problems & innovative practices.

• Goals:
  • Identify useful practices
  • Outline a progression to more comprehensive safety management for small companies as they grow.
Carrier Size & Inspection OOS Rates
[2006-2009 MCMIS Data]

- 25.2% (1)
- 23.9% (2-19)
- 17.8% (20-99)
- 14.8% (100+)

Carrier Size Category (Number of Drivers)
Survey Importance Ratings of Safety Management Areas

1. Driver selection/hiring
2. Vehicle maintenance
3. Training, communications
4. Scheduling/dispatching
5. Driver evaluation (e.g., violations)
6. Trip planning/routing
7. Monitoring CSA scores
8. Driver rewards & discipline
9. Loading, cargo securement, dock/yard
10. Vehicle safety equipment (e.g., technologies)
Small Carrier Safety Advantages

- Direct manager contact with drivers & vehicles
- Narrower span of control
- Greater personal involvement with company
- Lower turnover
- Experienced managers & drivers
- + 4 others.
Small Carrier Safety Disadvantages

- Management spread thin
- Weak business skills
- Non-analytic management
- Weak documentation
- Unsystematic hiring for “personal fit”
- Less time spent on training
- Less management development
- Less computer literacy
- Less use of OBSM
- Non-use of crash avoidance technologies
- + 4 others.
Improving Small Carrier Safety Management

- Business plan & focus
- Record keeping
- Management development
- Self-insight into management style (& how it must change)
- Build on small carrier strengths
- More systematic management practices
- Safety culture
- Use OBSM
- Use safety technologies
- Recognize & confront compliance challenges
- PM schedules & software
- Operational & trip planning
- Detention fees for loading/unloading delays
- “Cradle-to-grave” HRM
- Formalized driver selection
- + 12 more.
Small Carrier R&D Needs

- More representative studies
- Intervention case studies
- Driver selection tool validation
- Filtering for crash preventability in CSA
- Control for regression to the mean in intervention (e.g., Compliance Review) studies
- Aid to small carriers to reduce detention delays
- Technology demonstrations
- Open access benchmarking tool
- Web-based management training
- Wellness programs.
Thanks for your attention!

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