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As Trucking Deaths Increase, DOT and Trucking Companies Want Longer Hours

Motor vehicle traffic fatalities fell 1.8 percent to 37,133 in 2017, but fatal crashes involving large trucks jumped 9 percent, with single-unit truck fatalities increasing 18.7 percent and those involving tractor trailers increasing 5.8 percent. Meanwhile, the American Trucking Associations is petitioning DOT for an exemption from California’s rules requiring truckers to take a 10-minute rest break for every four hours of driving and a 30-minute meal break every 5 hours. In August, DOT proposed to extend the number of hours commercial truckers may spend on the road. Current federal regulations limit drivers to 11 hours of driving after at least 10 hours off-duty, with 30-minute breaks after eight hours of driving.

Traffic crash fatalities involving large trucks

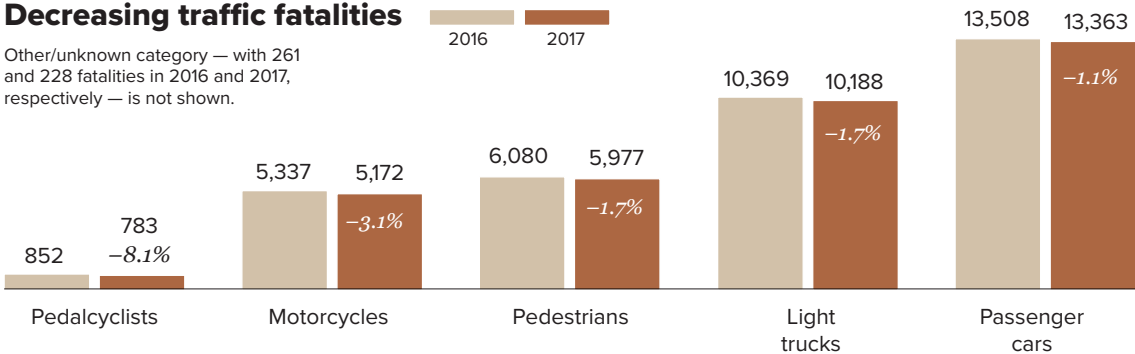
Large trucks are medium or heavy trucks with a gross vehicle weight greater than 10,000 pounds.



2016 TOTAL 4,369	TRUCK OCCUPANT FATALITIES WHEN INVOLVING ...	2017 TOTAL 4,761	YEAR-OVER- YEAR CHANGE
458	... one truck	498	+8.7%
267	... multiple vehicles	343	+28.5%
3,170	OTHER DEATHS Occupants in other vehicles	3,450	+8.8%
474	Nonoccupants	470	-0.8%

Decreasing traffic fatalities

Other/unknown category — with 261 and 228 fatalities in 2016 and 2017, respectively — is not shown.



Sources: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, POLITICO staff reports

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