

CLANCY & DIAZ, LLP  
PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

# Top 5 Reasons Semi-Trucks Cause Rear-End Accidents

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about 2 million rear-end car accidents occur each year, accounting for nearly 30% of all motor vehicle crashes. While one passenger vehicle hitting another from behind has the potential to cause serious injuries, rear-end accidents involving tractor-trailers are often much more catastrophic because of the massive weight disparity between.

## TOP 5 REASONS

Unfortunately, these types of truck accidents are often the result of negligence. Here are five reasons why 18-wheelers are more likely to cause rear-end truck accidents.

### 1 Longer Stopping Distance

The stopping distance for a fully loaded tractor-trailer traveling at 65 mph can be up to 525 feet - which is almost twice the stopping distance of an average passenger vehicle. Some inexperienced truckers may not be familiar with the sheer size and power of the vehicle they are operating, which can lead to catastrophic mistakes and, ultimately, a devastating rear-end crash.

### 2 Overloaded Trailers

Overloading an 18-wheeler's trailer can lead to reduced braking capabilities, increased stopping distances, and loss of vehicle control. This is particularly true if the weight of the load is unevenly distributed. A heavy load or cargo that isn't evenly distributed can cause the truck's tires to wear out quickly. Poor tire traction increases the risk of a rear-end collision, as the big rig may not be able to stop in time to avoid a crash. Truckers must ensure that their loads are properly distributed and never exceed legal weight limits.

### 3 Speeding

Truckers often drive faster than the speed limit to meet delivery deadlines, making them more likely to cause rear-end accidents. When a tractor-trailer travels at an unsafe speed and an emergency situation arises, the trucker may not have enough time to avoid a rear-end collision.



Continued on page 4

# The Dangers of Drowsy Driving and How to Prevent It

Accident data collected by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that nearly 800 people die yearly in collisions caused by tired drivers on U.S. roads.

That's almost 2% of all motor vehicle traffic deaths and one reason why the California Office of Traffic Safety has put together a series of safety tips designed to prevent collisions caused by drowsy drivers.

## Safety Tips to Avoid a Drowsy Driving Accident

Here are a few safety tips from the California Office of Traffic Safety to avoid driving while fatigued or falling asleep at the wheel:

- Get 7 to 9 hours of sleep before driving, especially on long road trips.
- Stick to a consistent sleep schedule.
- Don't drive alone, especially late at night.
- Take a break every 100 miles or 2 hours.
- Carefully read medication warnings. Many medications can make people tired and unable to drive safely.
- Don't mix alcohol with medications that cause drowsiness.
- If you're on the road and feel tired, pull over to a safe place and take a nap for 15-20 minutes.
- If you see someone driving erratically who might be asleep or fading in and out, slow down and stay as far away as possible from the other car. Drowsy drivers are unpredictable and can be dangerous.



**"Drowsy driving is a serious traffic safety concern that puts all roadway users at risk and can lead to tragic consequences."**

— California Office of Traffic Safety

## Warning Signs That You May Be Too Tired to Drive

- Failure to stay in one lane.
- Drifting into other lanes or oncoming traffic.
- Traveling extremely slow or fast and driving erratically on the road.
- Yawning, rubbing eyes, or frequent blinking.
- Difficulty remembering the last few miles of driving.

Claims involving car accidents caused by tired drivers might seem straightforward, but don't be surprised if your injury claim turns out to be a complicated legal case. Sometimes, the at-fault driver doesn't admit to doing anything wrong.

Other times, it's because the at-fault driver's insurance company does everything possible to reduce or deny your claim. That's when having experienced legal representation on your side can make a meaningful difference in the outcome of your case.

You should be fairly compensated for all your injury-related expenses if you were hit by a drowsy driver, and the car accident lawyers at Clancy & Diaz, LLP can help. Contact us and schedule your free case evaluation to learn more about your potential legal options.



# Reckless Drivers in the East Bay Wreak Havoc on



Two of the deadliest stretches of highway in California can be found on Interstate 80 in the East Bay area, according to a recent statewide car accident study. The same study also identified the top 10 deadliest stretches of road in California, along with the most common contributing factors in fatal car accidents.

## California's Deadliest Highways Include I-80 in East Bay

The study looked at fatal car accident data in California compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration from 2017 to 2019. Two of California's deadliest stretches of highway are parts of I-80 in the East Bay:

- **I-80 between Exit 14A and Exit 8A**, which includes parts of Interstate 80 in Berkeley, Oakland, Emeryville, and Albany, California. On this 5-mile-long stretch of I-80, a total of 17 people were killed in 15 fatal car accidents during this 3-year period.
- **I-80 from Exit 15 to Exit 17**, which includes parts of Interstate 80 in Richmond, El Cerrito, Pinole, and San Pablo, California. During this 3-year period, 18 people were killed in 13 fatal car accidents on this 5-mile-long stretch of I-80.

## Why do so many fatalities happen on I-80?

- **Speeding** - 28 percent of these accidents involved excessive speed, making it the most common contributing factor in these accidents.
- **Drunk Driving** - 27 percent of fatal car accidents on these roads involved drivers under the influence of alcohol.
- **Distracted Driving** - 4 percent of these accidents involved drivers not paying attention, whether it was texting and driving or other forms of distracted driving.

## Contact an East Bay car accident attorney today

Highway accidents on I-80 and other freeways in California's East Bay can happen fast and often result in serious injuries, significant vehicle damage, and sometimes even fatalities. If another driver caused your collision, you should be fairly compensated for all your injury-related expenses. However, obtaining the money you rightfully deserve can often be very difficult. That's because insurance companies have a financial incentive to pay crash victims as little compensation as possible.

The car accident lawyers at Clancy & Diaz, LLP in the Bay Area can help you every step of the way. We know how to handle complicated cases and get results for our clients. We know what legal strategies work, and we're prepared to go the distance to build the strongest possible legal case on your behalf.

Learn more about your legal rights and how we can help you.

Contact us and schedule your free evaluation.

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SEE PAGE 1

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### Continued from page 1

#### *Top 5 Reasons Semi-Trucks Cause Rear-End Accidents*

#### **4** Distracted Driving

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration prohibits truckers from texting or using handheld devices behind the wheel, yet some still choose to do it anyway. A texting trucker is essentially driving blind and may not notice changing traffic patterns until it's too late to avoid a rear-end crash.

#### **5** Impaired Driving

Driving a semi-truck while impaired or fatigued is a major risk to everyone on the road. Truckers need to follow the federal hours of service regulations and take rest breaks as required by law. Furthermore, all truck drivers must stay sober and be mindful of any medications that affect their ability to drive a tractor-trailer safely.

At Clancy & Diaz, our experienced truck accident lawyers have the knowledge and experience to conduct thorough investigations and find the facts that matter to your case. If you were injured in a Bay Area truck accident, contact us today to review your legal rights and options.

