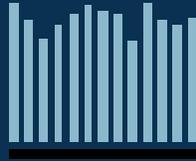




# UNLOCKING THE BLACK BOX



**What Truck Data Recorders  
Can Tell You After a Crash**



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A commercial truck can weigh as much as 80,000 pounds and measure in at 70 feet long. Based on the size of these vehicles and laws of physics, a crash with a truck can be much more catastrophic than a crash with another passenger vehicle. Because of the severe injuries and property damage they cause, truck accidents are much more costly to the trucking and insurance companies. The truth is, truck companies know that crashes are an inevitable part of the job, and they are prepared for them around the clock, from mobile response units to teams of lawyers on retainer.

Most regular (non-commercial) drivers aren't expecting accidents, and—on top of injuries and damaged property—they can quickly be at a disadvantage in proving negligence on the part of the truck driver. Fortunately for these victims, truck accident attorneys have a strong ally in proving these claims.



## Using Black Box Data after a Truck Accident

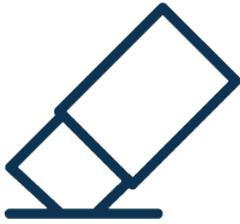
Airplanes aren't the only vehicles with "black box" recorders onboard. Most semi-trucks are equipped with black boxes known as Event Data Recorders (EDR). These devices record a variety of ongoing data about the operation of the truck, including:

- Average speed
- Highest speed
- Time driven
- Time spent driving 65+ MPH
- Average engine RPM
- Seatbelt usage
- Airbag performance
- Idling time



## How Can EDRs Help Truck Accident Victims?

These devices have proven useful to truck accident victims through their ability to provide factual data on what a truck was doing before, during, and after the accident. For example, it can show if the truck made a hard stop, the speed and engine RPM before the stop, and the actual driving time of the truck. This can be compared to the driver's personal log to see if he or she was driving longer than allowed by law. Discrepancies between recorded data and driver logs can be valuable in proving driver fatigue, and it can be an indication of poor compliance with trucking regulations on the part of the driver and truck company.



## EDR Data Can Disappear Quickly

The recording capacity of EDRs is usually only around 30 days. These devices record on a continuous loop, meaning that the oldest data is overwritten by newer data when the recording capacity is reached. This presents a problem for accident victims. It's essential to contact an experienced truck accident attorney immediately after an accident so he can move quickly to preserve this data before it's overwritten and effectively erased forever.

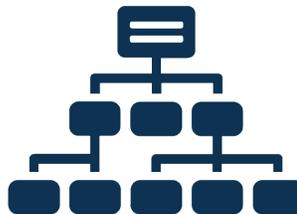
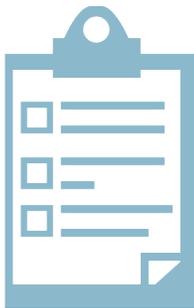
## More Complications of Truck Accidents

Black box data can be a valuable asset in proving negligence, but there are more complications in these accidents compared to car accidents. Because trucks can be so dangerous, the regulations surrounding their operation must be strict. And since the trucking industry is so vast, trying to seek justice for a truck accident can be difficult.

Trucks are commercial vehicles working for commercial entities, and there are typically more parties than just the driver involved in a truck's operation. When a truck causes an accident, which party is responsible? Is it the driver of the truck, the operator who owns the truck or trailer, the trucking company itself, or the employment agency who staffed the driver? The trend of brokerages hiring the lowest cost trucking company adds another layer to liability—knowingly hiring a cheaper and less safe trucking company exposes the motoring public to increased risk. Each of these parties may play a role in the operation of a given truck.

Depending on whether an accident was caused by driver fatigue, improper cargo loading, engine or brake malfunction, or even a defective roadway, these cases involve expertise beyond the normal car crash case.

The rules and regulations of the trucking industry are different and more specialized than basic driving laws. It takes specialized knowledge to understand if and how an involved party violated any of these rules, so it's important to consult with an attorney who is experienced in truck accidents.



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## Compensation for Trucking Accidents

The strict regulations of the trucking industry are necessary in order to preserve the safety of others on the road. Truck drivers receive more rigid training than regular drivers and are insured with higher liability because of the potential damage that their equipment can cause. Being made up of drivers, most jurors don't have much love for dangerous truck drivers.

Settlements for truck accidents are typically larger than auto accidents. If you are the victim of a truck accident, you may be entitled to a settlement that is based on several factors: medical bills, both current and future; lost wages and lost, or reduced future earnings capacity; and present and future pain, suffering, and disability. Additionally, settlements may depend on how many defendants are involved, and the level of fault for each of them.

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## Contact a St. Louis Truck Accident Lawyer Today

Between complex trucking regulations, circumstances behind the accident, number of defendants involved, and the possibility of long-term and permanent injury, it is imperative to find a qualified truck accident lawyer.

The St. Louis Personal Injury Lawyers at The S.E. Farris Law Firm are experienced in truck accidents. If a truck driver or other party was completely or even partially at fault, we will fight to get the compensation for your financial and personal losses, such as medical expenses, pain and suffering, lost wages, or long-term care you deserve. Call 888-733-3829 today for a free consultation.



### Contact Us Today

If you've been hurt in a truck crash, contact The S.E. Farris Law Firm for a free strategy session and to discuss your injury case. We never charge a fee unless we collect money for you, and most cases resolve without a court appearance.

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**Call 888-733-3829 or visit [www.farrislaw.net](http://www.farrislaw.net)**