TRAFFIC RECORDS FORUM
June 16, 2015

Traffic Records and Commercial Motor Vehicles in Maryland

John Rotz, Motor Carrier Division

Maryland State Highway Administration

The Problem – Our Mission

- On average, over the past 5 years, there are about 6,000 commercial vehicle crashes each year.

- These crashes resulted in an average of 55 fatalities and 2,563 injuries each year.

- The mission of the FMCSA (and Maryland) to reduce the number of these crashes and their resulting injuries and fatalities.

Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP)

- Federal grant program to support states commercial vehicle safety programs
  - Inspections
  - Traffic Enforcement
  - Compliance Reviews
  - Outreach
  - Data Analysis

Maryland Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Program

- Maryland is recognized as having one of the premier CMV safety programs in the nation:

  - Each year we have the most inspections per lane mile
  - The 4th most inspections overall in CY2013
  - Award winning Compliance Review Program
  - One of the top 10 states for fatal crash reduction in CY2013
  - The best enforcement program in CY2014 the nation by ATRI

  - Not the best CMV crash upload program

Uses of Traffic Records

- Pre-screening for inspections
- Compliance Reviews
- Traffic Initiatives
- Outreach
- Issue over-dimensional permits

Pre-screening – How do we separate the fox from the hounds ?

Inspections

- As many as 121,000 inspections per year

- For every truck that gets inspected, many more will not.

- Prepass, Drivewyze, License Plate Readers provide the means to identify carriers

- Traffic records and inspections provide the CSA safety rating which helps to determine which trucks get inspected and which do not

Use of Data for Compliance Reviews

Use of Data for Outreach

- In Maryland, about 50% of all CMV crashes are caused by the other driver

- In Maryland, about 70% of all FATAL CMV crashes are caused by the other driver

- Basis for outreach to the general motoring public through the NO-ZONE program

Smooth Operator Billboard

Smooth Operator Billboard

Use of Data to Issue Permits

- Maryland has automated on-line permit
- Convenient for trucking companies
- Convenient for enforcement to track
- No "reusing" of permits
- Permit violations recorded and accessed
- Continual violations can lead to suspension

Data for Issuing Permits

Traffic Enforcement Problems

- Over 40% of CMV crashes occurred in 3 counties – Baltimore, Montgomery & P.G.
- Most high crash segments on Capital Beltway
- Highest percentage of truck traffic – I-81
- Highest % of CMV crash type – rear end
- Higher % of unbelted drivers

Traffic Enforcement Initiatives

- Participation in the Smooth Operator Program

- Year round aggressive driving and speeding enforcement on I-495, I-695 and I-95 between

- The annual Roadcheck Initiative in June

- Fed-Ex Field initiative twice a year
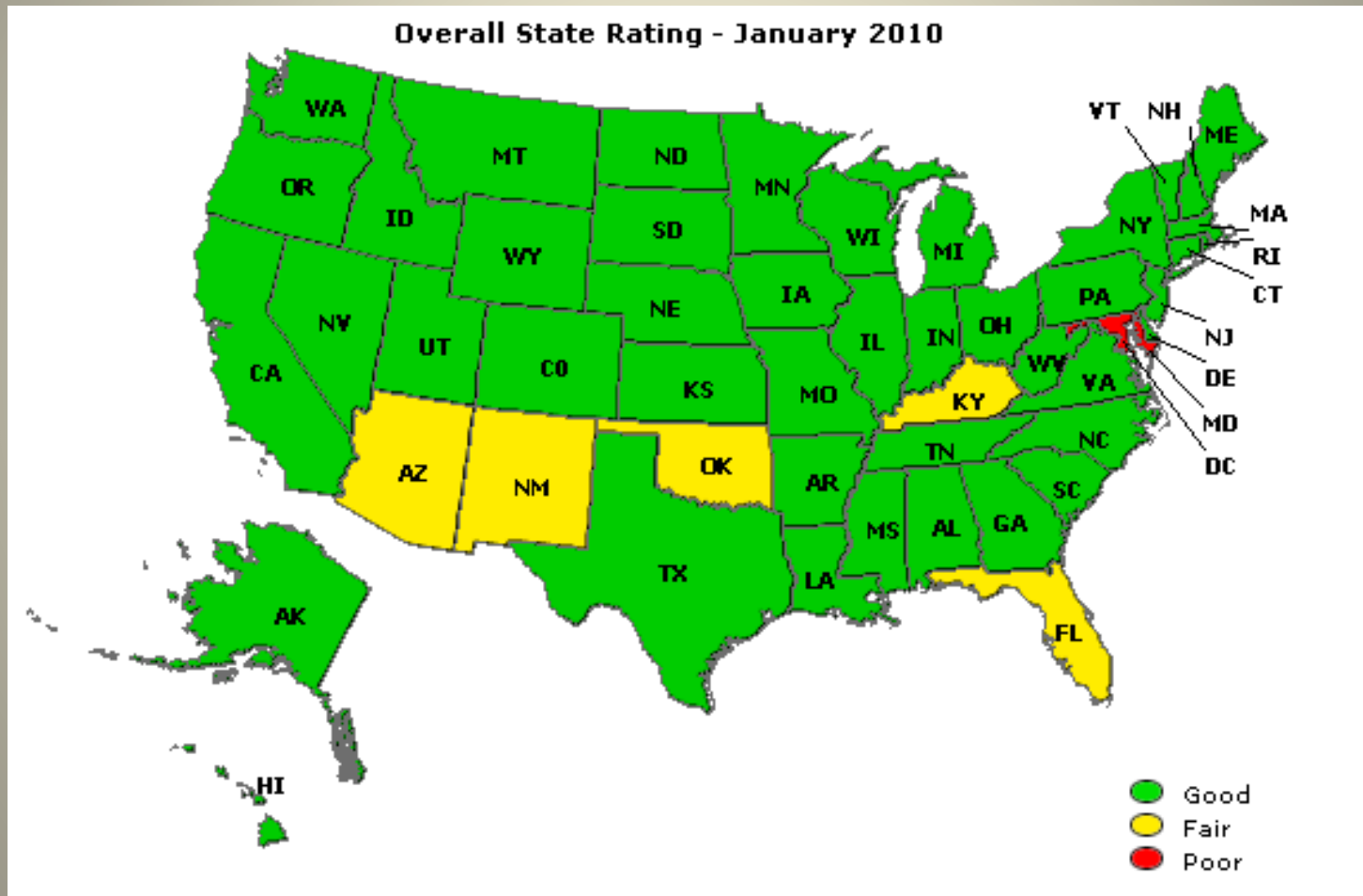
- Seatbelt check with every stop

Challenges in Reporting CMV Crashes

- Is it a truck or bus?

- Is it a commercial truck or bus?

- Does the crash meet the severity criteria?

- Who is the carrier?   -   It's not UHaul

- Formal challenges presented through FMCSA DataQs – provides for a means of redress

Challenges in Reporting CMV Crashes

- States receiving federal grant funding for their MCSAP are required to upload CMV crash data that is accurate, complete, consistent and timely according to national performance standards.

- States that do not meet these standards face a reduction in incentive funding and the potential loss of all Basic MCSAP funds.

- States are identified on a national map in colors of red, yellow and green based on their performance – green being good and red...not so good.

Timeliness of Crash Uploads

Overall State Rating - January 2010

The End