



## [Driver Fatigue: NTSB Chairman Deborah Hersman Speaks](#)

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While no one should be assuming that the horrific crash last weekend on I-65 was caused by big rig driver fatigue, that discussion does bring to mind the signs of driver fatigue — and how a semi truck driver may have signs that it's time to pull off the road (besides the HOS requirements).

Research by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has found that 52% of 107 commercial truck accidents involving only that vehicle were caused by truck driver fatigue. The Department of Transportation reports that fatigue is a contributing factor in around a THIRD of all fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Earlier this month, Deborah Hersman, Chairman of the NTSB spoke to the National Sleep Foundation about this very issue. [Her speech can be read in its entirety on the NTSB website.](#)

One of the key points made during her speech is that there are no scientific tests available to know when a driver is too tired to drive a big rig, plane, or train — like there are for impairments due to drugs or drinking alcohol (breathalyzers, blood tests). Currently, setting up procedures to prevent fatigue (HOS) and depending upon self-testing remain the only tools against driver fatigue. Therefore, employers and drivers must continue to work hard to get fatigued drivers off the road.

### Signs of Driver Fatigue include:

- driver keeps yawning
- driver is day-dreaming
- vehicle is wandering over the lane marker or stripe
- driver's having trouble keeping his eyes open
- driver cannot remember driving along the last few miles of road.