

Top 10 Tips

The Accident Reconstructionist's tips for a successful Trucking Case

by Victor Holloman

1. Reports and Statements

Obtain the accident report and witness statements as soon as possible.

2. Find an Accident Reconstructionist

Contact an accident reconstructionist and safety compliance expert immediately to help you determine whether or not to take the case

3. Important determinations to make...

- Determine who trained, supervised, loaded, and secured the load.
- Was a pre-trip inspection performed?
- Examine the bill of landing

4. Regulation Familiarity

Be familiar with applicable federal and state regulations associated with the collision.

5. Vehicle Inspection

Have the commercial vehicles involved thoroughly inspected by the accident reconstructionist and safety compliance expert for out-of-service violations and collision damage.

6. Accident Site Inspection

Have the accident site inspected.

7. Logbooks

Obtain driver's logbooks immediately. Federal regulations only require driver's logbooks to be kept for 6 months. Have the safety compliance expert examine the driver's logbooks, the trucking company's safety program and screening process.



Evidence Solutions, Inc.

PO Box 42047

Tucson, AZ 85733

866.795.7166

ClientServices@EvidenceSolutions.com

www.evidencesolutions.com

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8. Entities to Research

Research the driver, motor carrier, and safety director.

9. Documents to Obtain

- Inspection and maintenance records.
- Motor carrier's Safety Policies and Procedures documents for examination by the safety compliance expert.

10. Accident Scenario Animation

Discuss an animation of the accident scenario with the accident reconstructionist.

- Animations are quite useful at trials; the old adage applies - a picture is worth a thousand words. Additionally, animations are priceless.
- Still photographs of the accident scenario work better in depositions. Include animations at trial and mediations.



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