

WHO IS LIABLE AFTER A TRUCK ACCIDENT?



When trucks crash and injure people in passenger vehicles, there are many potential causes, and equally as many people who could be considered potentially liable.

If you've been injured in a truck crash, you likely need significant compensation to cover your medical expenses, both now and into the future. And you need that money as soon as possible. But determining who is responsible can be complex.





POTENTIALLY LIABLE PARTIES: THE DRIVER

Just like all other drivers, commercial truck drivers can be held responsible for accidents if they:

- Drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Drive while drowsy
- Drive while distracted
- Have unsafe and illegal driving habits, such as speeding or lane drifting

POTENTIALLY LIABLE PARTIES: THE TRUCK OWNER

The owner of the truck is legally responsible for maintaining it.

If the brakes fail or the tires blow out because the vehicle hasn't been properly maintained, the truck owner can be held liable for the resulting crash.

The owner of the truck could be the trucking company, a separate company, or even the driver him or herself. The cab and trailer of the truck may also be owned by different parties.





POTENTIALLY LIABLE PARTIES: THE TRUCKING COMPANY

Federal and state regulations have strict rules detailing how many consecutive hours a truck's operator can drive consecutively, how much cargo a truck can haul in one trip, how often a truck must be inspected, and so on.

Trucking companies may violate these rules or encourage their drivers to violate them to increase their profits. When trucking companies break the law, they can be held liable for any resulting crashes.

POTENTIALLY LIABLE PARTIES: THE HIRING AGENCY

Not all trucking companies employ their own drivers. Some work through agencies that lease out drivers.

When these hiring agencies do not use due diligence when hiring drivers, such as making sure drivers have valid commercial truck driver's licenses, can pass a drug test, or receive proper training, they may be held liable if a driver causes a crash.





POTENTIALLY LIABLE PARTIES: THE TRUCK OR PARTS MANUFACTURER

When trucks are manufactured or repaired with defective parts, and those parts malfunction and cause a crash, the manufacturer can be held responsible for putting dangerous parts in the hands of consumers.

Manufacturers of parts used to load or secure cargo can also be held responsible if those parts are defective and cause the cargo to come loose and injure someone.

POTENTIALLY LIABLE PARTIES: THE CARGO LOADERS

Commercial trucks can hold tens of thousands of pounds of cargo.

When the people responsible for loading the cargo overload a truck, they can damage the tires and brakes. An overloaded truck is also harder to control and bring to a stop, increasing the risk of accidents.

Alternatively, the people who loaded the cargo may fail to secure the cargo properly, causing it to come loose and fall off the truck, and then hit another vehicle.

In these cases, the cargo loaders may be held responsible for any injuries resulting from their actions.





POTENTIALLY LIABLE PARTIES: GOVERNMENT BODIES

Government bodies are responsible for maintaining roads across the nation. When roads are poorly maintained or poorly planned or designed, and these shortcomings contribute to a crash, it may be possible to hold the government body liable.

BERG INJURY LAWYERS®

Any or all of the parties described above may be responsible for contributing to the truck crash that caused your injuries.

Our law firm knows the trucking industry from the inside out. We know how to navigate the many complexities concerning truck crash compensation claims to get you the full amount you need to cover your medical bills, lost wages, and pain and suffering.

Contact **Berg Injury Lawyers** today for a free consultation with an experienced truck accident lawyer.

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