

GGH 24/7 TRUCKING ACCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

At Gaines Gault Hendrix, our trucking lawyers know that the difference between a successful resolution and a significant loss can come down to what is done in the hours after the accident. This narrow window is the time to take immediate action to deploy investigators and experts, collect and preserve important evidence and testimony, evaluate the scene, and to provide informed legal counsel to the company and driver. It is crucial to have the right people on the scene, and the GGH 24/7 Accident Response Team exists to do just that. Our clients enjoy the benefit of immediate assistance when involved in a trucking accident - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you or your company are interested in having access to our firm's 24/7 Trucking Accident Response Team, please contact our main number and speak to one of our partners.

As soon as the GGH 24/7 Trucking Accident Response Team is alerted of an accident, our experienced trucking lawyers will immediately travel to the scene to begin the investigation with an eye toward collecting and preserving the evidence that we know will carry a major impact in the resolution of the resultant claims. Specifically, our team will offer the following:

- Controlling the site to preserve critical investigative privileges, including:
 - Controlling and protecting all electronic data modules (ECM, OBC, EDR, etc.) and considering towing units to avoid spoliation claims due to electronic data being inadvertently overwritten,
 - Assuming personal control of all physical evidence not impounded by the police or identified as property of a third-party,
 - Photographing and inventorying the debris field, and
 - Placing immediate litigation holds on all driver records, logs, dispatch records, travel documents, DVCR's and maintenance records;
- Counseling the driver at the accident site and employees of the company, including referring the individuals to a competent criminal defense attorney if necessary;
- Establishing and preserving attorney client privilege to guard self-critical analysis (driver discipline) to the greatest extent possible under local law;
- Identifying and securing available liability insurance coverage;
- Retaining an independent adjuster;
- Identifying, contacting, and involving the appropriate investigators and experts from the following disciplines: Accident reconstruction, Engineering, ECM download, Biomechanics, Driving/fatigue, Tire, Fire cause and origin, Human factors, and/or Toxicology;
- Responding to and counseling on media relations and inquiries, if requested by the company;
- Evaluating and counseling on compliance with local, state, and federal regulations and statutes;
- Working with and interviewing all law enforcement officers and medical personnel at the scene;
- Locating the appropriate local facility for proper drug and alcohol testing and monitoring said testing;
- Offering field compliance with all applicable Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ("FMSCA"), Department of Transportation ("DOT") rules and regulations;
- Retaining a fuel spill contractor to mitigate exposure to ADEM penalties/charges; and
- Responding to audit or investigation requests from local authorities.