



# Texas

## Department of Public Safety

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### DPS having success sidelining dangerous trucks

At today's Public Safety Commission meeting, DPS Director Steven C. McCraw highlighted the Texas Highway Patrol's efforts to get dangerous commercial vehicles off the roads.

Since the first of the year, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement personnel and specially-trained Highway Patrol troopers have inspected 331,505 commercial vehicles. As a result of these inspections, DPS removed 66,189 unsafe commercial vehicles and 12,301 unsafe commercial vehicle drivers from Texas roads for a variety of safety violations.

"Commercial vehicles are responsible for approximately 15 percent of the fatalities in Texas crashes," said McCraw. "Most commercial vehicle operators obey the law; however, those who choose to drive unsafe commercial vehicles or drive a commercial vehicle unsafely pose a serious threat to the motoring public."

McCraw cited Operation Texas Thunder initiatives, which are DPS surge enforcement operations in a targeted area, as one example of how DPS deals with unsafe truck and bus operators. After complaints about truck traffic in McMullen County, a recent Operation Texas Thunder effort put 64 percent of the vehicles inspected during that operation out of service. Another recent Texas Thunder operation in the Corpus Christi area resulted in almost 400 citations and 206 vehicles placed out of service.

"The outstanding work by our troopers and inspectors has undoubtedly prevented accidents and saved lives," said Public Safety Chairman Allan Polunsky. "Our enforcement efforts send a message to unsafe drivers and companies inclined to violate the law and place innocent people in danger."

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