What Trucking Companies Do in the First 24 Hours After a Serious Indiana Crash

The Trucking Company Is Already Building Its Defense While You're Still in the Hospital

Police arrive, a report gets filed, and somewhere down the line an insurance company gets involved. That is the order most crashes follow, and it gives people a false sense of how much time they have to think things through. When the crash involves a commercial truck, that timeline collapses almost entirely, which is exactly why so many families search for an Indiana truck accident lawyer within hours of learning what actually happens behind the scenes.

Large carriers and their insurers may put a rapid response plan into motion when a serious crash is reported, and that plan can be underway within hours, sometimes before the wreckage has even been cleared from the road. Investigators, adjusters, and sometimes a defense attorney may already be working the case while the injured person is still being treated, still in shock, or still trying to reach a family member.

This response is not improvised, and it is not neutral. This response is designed to protect the trucking company's interests and prepare for potential litigation, which means the company may begin gathering evidence long before the injured person has considered doing the same.

Dispatching Investigators and Defense Attorneys to the Scene

Large trucking companies and their insurers maintain what is often called a rapid response team, and that team can be on the road within hours of a serious semi-truck crash. These professionals are not neutral. Their job is to gather everything favorable to the trucking company while the scene, the vehicles, and the available witnesses are still fresh.

- **Accident Reconstructionist:** Measures skid marks, vehicle positions, and roadway conditions before anything changes.
- **Claims Adjuster:** Begins building the company's file and assessing potential exposure almost immediately.
- **Defense Attorney:** In many serious crashes, counsel is retained within hours specifically to protect the company's interests.
- **Company Safety or Risk Manager:** Reviews the driver's file, maintenance records, and prior incidents before any outside party can request them.

A team like this working against an injured person who has no representation of their own is not a fair fight, and it is the single biggest reason a serious truck crash calls for a lawyer from day one rather than after the claim has already stalled.

Interviewing the Driver Before Memories or Accounts Change

One of the first priorities for a trucking company's investigators is locking in the driver's account of the crash. That interview happens quickly, often within hours, while the driver's recollection of the events is still fresh.

- **Recorded Statement:** The driver's version of events is captured on record early, before physical evidence has been fully reviewed.
- **Early Interview:** Company representatives, insurers, or attorneys may interview the driver soon after the crash to document the driver's account of speed, distance, reaction time, and other circumstances.
- **Consistency for Later Use:** This early account becomes the anchor the company returns to throughout the personal injury case, even if later evidence raises questions about it.

This early statement matters because it sets the narrative the company will defend for the life of the claim, and a lawyer who moves quickly can request that statement and challenge inconsistencies before they harden into the official version of events.

Downloading Dashcam, ECM, GPS, and Electronic Logging Data

Modern commercial trucks generate an enormous amount of electronic data, and trucking companies move fast to secure it before any of it can be lost.

- **Engine Control Module Data:** Depending on the truck and its systems, electronic vehicle data may provide information about speed, braking, throttle position, or other vehicle activity before a crash.
- **Dashcam Footage:** Can capture a direct view of the moments before impact, though some systems may automatically delete or record over footage if it is not preserved.
- **Electronic Logging Device Records:** For drivers subject to federal ELD requirements, these records can provide information about driving and duty status that may help determine compliance with hours-of-service rules.
- **GPS and Telematics Data:** Establishes the truck's speed, route, and location history, which can confirm or contradict the driver's account.

Some electronic evidence can be lost or overwritten over time, so a lawyer may send a preservation demand early to make sure important data from the truck is saved.

Inspecting or Moving the Truck

The truck itself is evidence, and trucking companies understand that better than anyone. Company investigators typically move quickly to document the vehicle before repairs, salvage, or normal operations put it back into service.

- **Photographing Damage:** Documents the point and severity of impact from angles the company controls.
- **Reviewing Mechanical Condition:** Checks brakes, tires, and other systems for defects or conditions that may have contributed to the crash.
- **Assessing Cargo and Load:** Examines whether the cargo was properly loaded and secured and whether weight or load distribution may have contributed to the crash.
- **Returning the Truck to Service:** After necessary inspections and repairs, a commercial truck may eventually be returned to service, potentially changing or eliminating some physical evidence.

Once a truck is repaired or returned to service, evidence of a mechanical defect or an unsafe load can be altered or lost, which is why an independent inspection arranged through a lawyer needs to happen before that window closes.

Contacting the Injured Person for a Statement or Authorization

It is common for an insurance adjuster to reach out to an injured crash victim within the first day or two, often while that person is still recovering in a hospital bed or adjusting to a new diagnosis.

- **A Recorded Statement Request:** Can lock a victim into details about the crash or their injuries before they have fully processed either.
- **A Medical Authorization Form:** Often grants the insurer broad access to records that go far beyond the crash itself.
- **An Early Settlement Offer:** May arrive before the full extent of the injuries or long-term treatment needs are even known.

These requests can affect an injured person’s claim, particularly when they are made before the full extent of the injuries and treatment needs are known.

Looking for Evidence That Shifts Part of the Blame

Trucking companies rarely deny that a crash happened. Instead, their investigators focus heavily on comparative fault, searching for anything that could shift even a portion of the blame onto the injured person.

- **Traffic Camera Footage:** Reviewed for any angle that might suggest the victim contributed to the crash.
- **Cell Phone Records:** Requested to check for distraction on the victim's part in the moments before impact.

- **Weather and Road Conditions:** Used to argue the crash was unavoidable rather than caused by driver error.
- **Bystander Statements:** Witness accounts can provide important information about what happened, although individual witnesses may have seen only part of the crash.

In Indiana, this search matters directly because the state's modified comparative fault rule generally reduces a claimant's damages in proportion to the claimant's share of fault and bars recovery if the claimant is found more than 50 percent at fault.

Why the Victim Needs an Independent Investigation Immediately

By the time most injured people even think about contacting a lawyer, the trucking company's investigation may already be days ahead. Evidence that would have supported the victim's account – dashcam footage that gets overwritten, skid marks that fade, or a mechanical defect visible only before repairs – can disappear in the same window the company used to build its own case.

An independent investigation launched quickly can send preservation letters demanding the company retain electronic data, arrange an inspection of the truck before it returns to service, and canvass the scene for witnesses and video the company's team may have overlooked or chosen not to pursue. Coordinating these steps quickly can be difficult for injured people and their families, particularly while they are dealing with medical treatment and the immediate aftermath of a serious crash.

Waiting can make it more difficult to obtain a complete picture of the crash if evidence is altered, overwritten, lost, or no longer available.

The Same Playbook, Seen From the Other Side

Boughter Sinak, LLC moves to preserve electronic data, secure an independent inspection of the truck, and identify witnesses before the trail goes cold, matching the urgency the trucking company's own team already brought to the case from hour one. That approach has produced real results, including a $2.2 million combined recovery for two people seriously injured when a commercial truck driver fell asleep at the wheel, a case where the firm immediately dispatched an accident reconstruction expert to gather roadway measurements, drone footage, and an inspection of the truck before any of it could disappear. Injury victims never pay anything upfront for that work, since the firm handles every trucking case on a contingency fee basis, meaning no fee is owed unless a recovery is secured on the client's behalf.

If you or someone you love was seriously injured in a truck accident in Indiana, the company's investigation is likely already underway, and every day that passes without a response of your

own works against you. Contact us for a free consultation, and let a firm that knows this process from both sides fight to level the field before critical evidence disappears.