Atlanta Trucking Crashes Highlight Questions About Commercial Driver and Carrier Safety, Hodgins & Kiber Says

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ATLANTA, GA - September 14, 2026 -
A recent cluster of collisions involving tractor-trailers and CSX freight trains in the Atlanta area, along with a new U.S. Supreme Court decision involving commercial transportation liability, is drawing renewed attention to the complex safety and legal issues that can arise after a serious truck crash, according to Atlanta personal injury attorneys David Hodgins and Troy Kiber of Hodgins & Kiber.

Three tractor-trailers were struck by CSX trains in the Atlanta metropolitan area within five days in June, according to FreightWaves. The incidents have raised questions about truck safety near railroad crossings and the circumstances that can place commercial drivers and other motorists at risk.

One of the incidents occurred in southwest Atlanta near Lee Street and Sparks Street. According to FOX 5 Atlanta, a CSX freight train struck a semi-truck at approximately 3:45 a.m. on June 26. The collision caused the truck to catch fire. No injuries were reported, and the cause of the crash remained under investigation.

The incident prompted a subsequent investigation by WSB-TV into the safety record of the trucking company

involved. According to federal safety records reviewed by WSB, the company had been linked to 12 reported crashes during the preceding two years. WSB also reported that 35 of 79 vehicle inspections resulted in trucks being placed out of service, producing an out-of-service rate of approximately 44%.

The trucking company disputed how those figures should be interpreted, telling WSB that the crashes varied in severity and that three of the 12 reported crashes were being challenged through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's DataQs system. The company also said it hires experienced commercial drivers, uses electronic fleet-management technology and regularly inspects and maintains its vehicles.

For Atlanta motorists, the incidents illustrate why investigating a commercial truck crash can require much more than determining what happened in the moments immediately before impact.

?When a serious truck crash occurs, it is important not to assume that the investigation ends with the driver,? said David Hodgins, an Atlanta personal injury attorney with Hodgins & Kiber. ?There can be important questions about the trucking company?s hiring practices, vehicle maintenance, inspection history, driver qualifications, cargo, dispatching and other factors. Those details can become extremely important when someone has suffered a serious injury.?

Commercial trucking cases can involve multiple potentially responsible parties. Depending on the circumstances, those parties may include the truck driver, trucking company, vehicle owner, maintenance provider, manufacturer, shipper or freight broker. Determining whether any of those parties contributed to a collision requires a careful investigation of the evidence surrounding the particular crash.

The recent Atlanta collisions also demonstrate why trucking safety records can become an important part of a broader investigation. A carrier?s history does not automatically establish liability for a specific accident, but information regarding inspections, maintenance, driver qualifications and previous safety issues can provide important context.

?These safety records have to be evaluated carefully and in context,? said Troy Kiber, an Atlanta personal injury attorney with Hodgins & Kiber. ?A number appearing in a federal database does not, by itself, prove that a particular trucking company caused a particular collision. But when someone is seriously injured, attorneys need to investigate whether there were safety violations, maintenance problems, driver issues or other circumstances that may have contributed to what happened.?

The Atlanta-area incidents come amid broader national attention on the legal responsibilities of companies involved in commercial transportation. On May 14, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in Montgomery v. Caribe Transport II, LLC, a case involving claims arising from a tractor-trailer collision.

The Supreme Court held that a state-law claim alleging that a company negligently hired a motor carrier falls within the safety exception to federal preemption. The decision reversed the lower court's judgment and remanded the case for further proceedings.

The ruling has potential implications for the way certain commercial truck accident cases are evaluated because it reinforces the importance of examining the relationships between companies involved in arranging and performing commercial transportation.

?Truck accident cases can be more complicated than they initially appear,? Hodgins said. ?The company on the side of the truck may not tell the entire story. There can be contracts, brokers, maintenance companies, cargo arrangements and other relationships that need to be examined. The goal is to determine what actually happened and which parties, if any, may have contributed to the crash.?

Evidence can also become more difficult to obtain as time passes. Commercial trucks may contain electronic systems that record information about vehicle operation, while

The legal questions surrounding commercial trucking liability have also received national attention this year. In May 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in Montgomery v. Caribe Transport II, LLC, a case involving whether federal law prevented a negligence claim against a freight broker from proceeding. The case involved a severe tractor-trailer collision and raised questions about the role of freight brokers and their potential duties when arranging transportation.

The Supreme Court's consideration of the case highlights an issue that can be overlooked after a truck accident: the company whose name appears on a truck may not necessarily be the only entity whose conduct needs to be examined. Depending on the circumstances, a commercial truck accident can involve multiple companies and individuals, including drivers, motor carriers, vehicle owners, maintenance providers, manufacturers, shippers, and freight brokers.

"Commercial trucking is a complex industry, and responsibility can be equally complex after a crash," the Hodgins & Kiber representative said. "The investigation should focus on the evidence rather than assumptions about who is responsible. In a serious collision, understanding the relationships between the driver, carrier, broker, owner, maintenance providers and other parties can be critical."

For people injured in Atlanta-area truck crashes, the attorneys say preserving evidence should be a priority. A damaged vehicle may eventually be repaired or destroyed, electronic information may not be retained indefinitely, and physical evidence at a crash scene can disappear. Photographs, witness information, police reports, medical records, vehicle data, trucking records and other evidence may all become important when

determining how a collision occurred.

The firm's Atlanta truck accident attorneys also warn that injured people may face immediate contact from insurance companies following a commercial vehicle collision. Trucking companies and their insurers may begin investigating a crash quickly, sometimes while an injured person is still receiving emergency medical treatment.

"Someone who has just been seriously injured in a truck crash is often focused on medical treatment, not on understanding the trucking company's insurance coverage or preserving electronic evidence," the representative said. "That is one reason an early investigation can be so important."

Hodgins & Kiber represents injured clients throughout Georgia in commercial truck accident cases. According to the firm's Atlanta truck accident practice, its attorneys investigate potential liability, work to preserve critical evidence, negotiate with insurers and prepare cases for litigation when necessary. The firm states that initial consultations are free and that clients do not pay attorney fees unless the firm's lawyers win their case. H Hodgins & Kiber

Atlanta drivers share the roads with commercial trucks every day, particularly along major interstate and freight corridors throughout the metropolitan area. Recent incidents involving tractor-trailers and trains demonstrate how quickly a commercial transportation problem can become a major public-safety event.

For anyone injured in an Atlanta-area collision involving a tractor-trailer, semi-truck, 18-wheeler, delivery truck or other commercial vehicle, Hodgins & Kiber provides information about its Atlanta truck accident legal services at https://www.attorneyatl.com/atlanta/truck-accident-lawyer/.

The firm encourages people involved in serious truck collisions to seek appropriate medical care and consider obtaining legal advice before providing detailed statements to an insurance company or accepting a settlement. Every collision is different, and liability depends on the facts and evidence of the particular case.
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For more information about Hodgins & Kiber, LLC, contact the company here:Hodgins & Kiber, LLCHodgins & Kiber, LLC404) 975-1467info@attorneyatl.com1720 Peachtree Street NW Suite 575Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Hodgins & Kiber, LLC

Atlanta personal injury attorneys David Hodgins and Troy Kiber fight for accident victims across metro Atlanta. We handle car, truck, and motorcycle accidents with integrity and aggression?maximizing your recovery while you focus on healing.

Website: https://www.attorneyatl.com/

Email: info@attorneyatl.com

Phone: 404) 975-1467