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**COLORADO STATE PATROL IMPLEORES DRIVERS TO
“GIVE TRUCKS MORE ROOM”**

*2011 Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks Campaign
New CSP Traffic Safety Campaign Focuses on Decreasing
Car Crashes with Commercial Motor Vehicles*

DENVER, CO (August 11, 2011) ----- The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) is kicking off its 2011 Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT) campaign designed to reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries between cars and trucks. The campaign implores drivers on Colorado roadways to “Give Trucks More Room,” a message reinforced with public awareness materials, combined with three law enforcement periods this summer.

“Everyone benefits from the commerce of goods from state to state that is provided by commercial motor vehicles,” said Colonel James Wolfinbarger, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “What’s not beneficial is the aggressive driving that takes place around these trucks, which becomes hazardous to the driver and everyone else on the road. Speeding, following a truck too closely and unsafe lane violations are the top three reasons crashes happen between passenger and commercial motor vehicles.”

In 2010, 968 crashes between trucks and passenger vehicles accounted for 50 fatalities and 138 injuries. The crash was the fault of the passenger vehicle driver 56% of the time, resulting in 78% of the fatalities being occupants of the car.

“Many people don’t think about the size and weight of these semi-trucks, which means it takes them more time and extra space to change lanes or come to a complete stop,” said Wolfinbarger. “With this campaign, our focus is to increase public awareness of the dangers involved with aggressive driving, in order to decrease the number of accidents and fatalities on the road.”

The 2011 campaign will be featured on billboards, gas pumps and wrapped on commercial vehicles in the Denver metro area. Radio spots will remind drivers to take caution when driving near trucks. TACT enforcements by the CSP will focus on I-70 and I-25 August – October.

During the CSP’s 2010 TACT enforcement, officers issued more than 2,200 citations for aggressive driving (speeding, following too closely or making improper lane changes around trucks) in the enforcement corridors during the three enforcement periods. The Colorado TACT campaign materials, truck wraps and billboards also received national creative awards, as well as being internationally recognized.

About Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT):

The TACT program is a critical component of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) commercial vehicle safety improvement activities and has been adapted by the CSP to raise awareness among Coloradans about the dangers associated with aggressively driving around commercial motor vehicles.

In Colorado, TACT was started in 2010 as an enforcement and education program to reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries between cars and trucks. It is the first high-visibility traffic enforcement campaign to concentrate solely on passenger and commercial vehicles driving aggressively as well as to educate car and truck drivers on the importance of leaving more space when merging, changing lanes, following behind trucks, or passing other motorists when driving.

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