Defensive Driving Fatality File

Traveling Salesman Killed in Head-on Crash

A 31-year-old explosives manufacturing service representative was killed when his truck crossed the center line into oncoming traffic. The man was returning to his home base from an out-of-state sales call, when he apparently lost control of his vehicle. The truck drifted across the center line of a two-lane rural roadway and hit a dump-type semi-tractor with a double trailer.

The man was crushed in the vehicle and had to be extricated by volunteer fire department personnel before being taken to hospital where he died. Because of the rural location of the crash, it took emergency services longer than usual to attend the scene.

There was no apparent reason, other than fatigue, distraction, or falling asleep at the wheel, for the victim to have crossed the center line without taking evasive action.

Are you taking proper care when you are on the road? Make sure you have updated training in defensive driving on a periodic basis, with safe driving reviews. Drive on major roadways, when at all possible, particularly when driving in hours of darkness. Take care to schedule sales calls to minimize driving when darkness or fatigue might create unnecessary hazards.