Driver is hit by passing motorist

Mike had several decades of experience as a truck driver, which included local, short and long hauls. His freight inventory ranged from auto parts, to computers, to wooden pallets, to dog food and even included the musical instruments for world famous performers. He thoroughly enjoyed his occupation and to him it was not a job - it was a profession. During this time Mike had seen several changes in the transportation industry, such as deregulation, record high fuel costs, fuel shortages, and rapidly advancing technology. He had also seen roadway congestion get worse. There seemed to be an ever increasing number of vehicles on the highways and this congestion is what finally ended Mike’s career as a truck driver.

Mike’s last dispatch was a relatively easy 1,500 mile turn around, which included a live load at a dedicated shipper. With no unforeseen problems he would be home in time to watch his grandson play T Ball over the weekend. However, Mike’s last dispatch was unlucky. He had to pull over on the side of the interstate to check his trailer and that is when his truck driving career ended. Mike was struck by another motorist and sustained severe injuries that prevented him from returning to work. Mike would never drive again, nor would he be able to fully enjoy the experience of being an active grandfather.

Life lesson

Fortunately Mike recovered despite his life-threatening injuries. But even though his truck driving career came to an end, the following life lesson will forever be embedded in his mind.

Always pull as far as possible off the roadway anytime you must stop your truck and conduct any roadside inspection/repair.

Never assume that the passing motorists see you, or that they will merge away from you.

If provided, always wear reflective clothing any time you must exit your truck alongside an active roadway.

Consider an escape path in the event that a passing motorist “clips” you and you must jump to avoid impact.