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Log Truck Liability Insurance in Georgia **FACT SHEET**

Log Trucking Companies

- Log truck owners are small businessmen
- Average fleet size is five log trucks
- A nationwide shortage of drivers makes it challenging to hire qualified log truck drivers

Log Truck Safety

- Log truck accidents declined by 62% 2006-2016
- Accidents increased by 24% between 2012-2016 as the economy recovered and vehicle traffic increased
- Accidents per million tons of wood hauled declined from 16 to 6 2006-2016
- 93 percent of log trucks involved in accidents have no mechanical defects

Liability Insurance Premium Trends

- Average liability premiums increased by 53 percent 2010-2016
- Individual companies experienced rate increases as high as 300 percent 2012-2017
- Insurance premiums in Georgia were 17 percent higher than Alabama and 94 percent higher than North Carolina in 2016
- Log truck insurance was 37% more expensive than insurance for other heavy vehicles in Georgia in 2016

Likely Causes of Rate Increases

- Cost of claims exceeded the value of insurance premiums collected
- Frivolous lawsuits have driven up the cost of providing insurance
- Cost of medical care following accidents increased
- Cost of repairing vehicles following accidents increased
- The federal Compliance, Safety, and Accountability program enabled insurers to identify risky fleets and charge them above-average rates

Possible Solutions

- Legal reform that discourages frivolous lawsuits, protects those not at fault in accidents, and appropriately compensates people injured in accidents
- Log truck driver training programs that increase the number of safe drivers
- Increase use of drive cameras on log trucks for driver training and defending against false claims
- Continue to improve fleet maintenance and reduce at-fault accidents
- Ensure haul rates cover the full cost of timber transportation and company policies incentivize safe trucking practices