

RollTek Deployment Case Study

Sparks, Nevada

Oct. 1, 2009

On Oct. 1, 2009, an owner/operator hauling empty wine bottles for a British Columbia-based trucking company was traveling on I-80 near Sparks, Nevada, when he hit a dip in the road and lost control. The truck overturned while traveling 65 mph, landing on its side and sliding more than 100 feet and striking a bridge abutment before stopping on its left side on the interstate.



The 2009 Freightliner Cascadia truck was equipped with **RollTek**®, which kept the driver securely in his seat and inflated an airbag to cushion his head and neck from impact when the truck rolled over.

The company's claims administrator says he has investigated more than a dozen rollovers during his three-year tenure.

"I usually see that rollover accidents cause drivers a stiff upper body, stiff neck, upper body contusions and a bruising of the head and shoulders... with this one, nothing," he recounted. "I tend to be conservative about spending, but I'd have no hesitation to recommend a side airbag system in trucks we buy in the future."

Rainer Trimpl, owner of Accord Appraisal Group, manages accident appraisals for the company. "Trucks are being built lighter and get crumpled more than they used to, and that makes rollover protection in heavy trucks even more important than in passenger cars," Trimpl said. "Trucks are also on the road all the time and the chances of accidents go way up."

Trimpl has been working in accident appraisals in the trucking industry for 22 years and says he believes the driver would have been hurt if the RollTek system had not been in place. "I don't compromise on safety and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend airbags on heavy trucks," he said. "Metal is easy to replace if there's an accident. But when someone gets hurt, it's tough to come by [body] parts."

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