Four Smart Technologies That Keep Truck Drivers Safe

From smartphones to smart speakers, technology rules our world. Smart technology even helps truck drivers stay safe on the road.

Research from the American Automobile Association (AAA) Foundation for Traffic Safety estimates that installing advanced safety technology on all large trucks can potentially prevent 63,000 crashes, 17,733 injuries and 293 deaths each year.

In its report, the AAA recommends these four safety innovations that make the biggest impact:

1. **Lane Departure Warning Systems** – When drivers get tired or distracted, they may veer into another lane. Lane departure warning systems use cameras to detect when you drift off the road and then send an audible warning so you have time to safely correct your behavior. These alerts won't sound if your turn signal is on in the direction of the other lane.
2. **Video-Based Onboard Safety Monitoring Systems** – Using a combination of vehicle sensors and cameras, these systems allow the driver to view what is happening outside the truck. They also record driver behavior, allowing fleet managers to evaluate driver performance and reinforce safe driving habits.
3. **Automatic Emergency Braking Systems** – This technology uses sensors to monitor the presence of vehicles ahead or around a truck. If a driver gets too close to another motorist, the sensors will activate the vehicle's brake system to help you avoid a collision.
4. **Air Disc Brakes** – Designed to improve the stopping distance of a vehicle, air disc brakes also require less maintenance than traditional drum brakes.

These four technologies are standard on heavy-duty (Class 8) vehicles from Penske Truck Leasing. In addition, Penske trucks also have:

- **Adaptive cruise control,** which applies the brake or accelerator automatically based on your following distance.
- **Side object detection,** which monitors the road and alerts you of motorists riding in your truck's blind spot.
- **Electronic stability control,** which helps to prevent spinouts and rollovers.

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