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Fairfield event teaches drivers how to share road with semi-trucks

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By Lot Tan

Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD — A local business Thursday offered a community safety event to teach people how to safely share the road with semi-trucks.

Dozens of drivers were at Without a Doubt Truck and Trailer Repair, 3240 Production Drive, where a colorful, 53-foot semi-trailer was parked that featured illustrations of where cars disappear into a truck driver's blind spot.

There have been 4,581 motor vehicle crashes this year in Butler and Warren counties, according to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and 228 of those accidents included semi-trucks. While that percentage may be small, local truck drivers said drivers need to pay special attention when a semi-trailer truck is nearby.

"See if the driver can see you, give them lots of room and don't tailgate," said Gary Buchs, a truck driver.

Buchs has been a truck driver for 30 years and said he has never had a major crash, but admits there have been a few close calls. He said while it may take a car 150 feet to stop, it takes a truck 600 feet to stop when traveling on the highway.

He said trucks drive slower on the road for a reason.

"I drive slower to allow cars to travel around me, and by doing that they move in and out of my blind spot," Buchs said.

"Make sure you can see their mirrors," said Sandy Ambrose, President of Without a Doubt Truck and Trailer Repair. "If you can't see their mirrors, they can't see you. Watch how close you are, and give them room."

There have been nine fatal motor vehicle related crashes in Butler and Warren counties this year, according to the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

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