With over 80 percent of all communities in the United States relying exclusively on trucks to deliver consumer goods, the trucking industry is essential to the economy. This reliance on trucks helps explain why nearly a fourth of vehicles on the road are commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). Large trucks and passenger vehicles both need to practice safe driving behaviors to avoid crashes while sharing the road. To educate both types of drivers about how they can prevent crashes with each other, UDOT's Motor Carrier Division put together two outreach safety programs: Drive to Stay Alive and Truck Smart. The programs are part of UDOT's Zero Fatalities program, with the goal to reduce the number of crashes, fatalities and serious injuries to drivers by teaching safe driving behaviors.

Drive to Stay Alive focuses on truck safety for CMV drivers. The program seeks to educate drivers about how to drive safely by focusing on eight key areas. Drive to Stay Alive also provides drivers with useful information specific to Utah, including the locations of rest stops and parking areas along major freeways and highways across the state. For more information visit udot.utah.gov/drivetostayalive.

Truck Smart seeks to educate the general public about driving safely around trucks. In addition to creating awareness campaigns for the general public, the program has also developed a presentation for driver education classes, instructing high school students about how to drive safely around trucks. The presentation includes safe driving tips, as well as a chance for the students to see a truck up close, understand the truck’s blind spots and interact with a CMV driver. This outreach effort is growing statewide, as Zero Fatalities and Truck Smart are trying to get into every school. For more information visit udot.utah.gov/trucksmart.