

Operation Highway Shield November 2026

The U.S. Department of Transportation earlier this month announced the results of the third wave of Operation Highway Shield led by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). This multiagency operation targeting unqualified big rig drivers and criminal activity on American roads.

FMCSA inspectors partnered with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Arkansas Highway Police for a 48-hour operation to crack down on unsafe drivers, hazardous vehicles, and fraudulent practices along Arkansas highways and major freight corridors.

The operation resulted in:

- 393 drivers and vehicles placed out of service
- 183 English Language Proficiency (ELP) violations
- 74 immigration violations referred for federal immigrations enforcement
- 44 criminal arrests
- 1 stolen trailer recovered

“This latest wave of Operation Highway Shield has pulled over 300 dangerous drivers off the road including 183 foreign drivers that couldn't read road signs,” said U.S. Secretary of Transportation. “We are not slowing down when it comes to keeping Americans safe on our roads.”

“Every person on the road deserves to get home safely,” added FMCSA Administrator Derek D. Barrs. “When criminal activity and unsafe vehicles creep onto our highways, it puts everyone at risk. Operation Highway Shield is about teaming up with our partners to protect everyday drivers, clear out the bad actors, and make our roads safer for everyone.”

The first wave of Operation Highway Shield resulted in 176 drivers being taken out of service, 54 of which were taken out of service for language deficiencies. Additionally, 35 individuals were arrested on criminal-related charges and 42 individuals were taken into custody for violating federal immigration laws.

The second wave was conducted in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio, resulting in 51 undocumented immigrants detained, 766 unsafe drivers and vehicles placed out of service, 36 English Language Proficiency test violations, and $1 million of stolen cargo recovered.

In August, USDOT, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud teamed up to launch a historic interagency effort to crack down on fraud in the trucking industry. As part of the crackdown, FMCSA carried out the emergency removal of 110 commercial driver’s license (CDL) schools associated with more than 5,000 drivers who failed English language proficiency tests and put 160 more schools on notice.

*The NPTC Monthly Driver Safety Letter, jointly sponsored by NPTC and **Centerline Drivers**, is a Microsoft Word document that you can print out and post as is, if appropriate, or modify any way you wish to make it a better fit for your drivers, including adding your company logo. If you are already doing an in-house letter, you may find information here that you can cut and paste into your own letter. If you are interested in specific subjects, or have any comments/feedback, contact Tom Moore, CTP, at tmoore@nptc.org or (703)838-8898.*