

UPS drivers trained to spot human trafficking

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(Photo: File)

UPS drivers will be trained to recognize and report human trafficking in collaboration with the Truckers Against Trafficking organization, the company announced Wednesday.

UPS's 8,000 freight drivers will receive the training, which began last month, by the end of the year, according to UPS spokeswoman Kara Ross.

A pilot version of the project between Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) and UPS was rolled out across 10 states in December, TAT said in a news release Wednesday.

"UPS Freight is in a unique position to help identify traffickers and trafficking victims by educating our drivers and management on this epidemic impacting our local communities," Rich McArdle, president of UPS Freight, said in the release. "We are proud to take a stand in fighting human trafficking and look forward to working with Truckers Against Trafficking on this initiative that will save lives."

Training is taking place on site around the country, Ross said. Each UPS driver also receives a wallet card that contains helpful phone numbers and instructs drivers what to do if they identify trafficking on the road. The card also identifies "trafficking red flags," which include a person who:

- exhibits restricted or controlled communication
- has a disheveled appearance or is crying
- is a minor traveling without adult supervision
- does not know the person who is picking them up

TAT, a non-profit organization that educates shipping partners and individuals in the trucking industry about how to stop human trafficking, is also partnering with the Kentucky Attorney General's Office, the attorney general's office said in a news release Wednesday. TAT Executive Director Kendis Paris said commercial driver's license (CDL) holders often have the unique opportunity to stop trafficking as it happens.

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"They are in places and see things that most of us do not," Paris said in the release. "If we can train every CDL holder in America to recognize and report human trafficking as they're seeing it, many more victims will be recovered out of a life of forced prostitution."

According to Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear, the attorney general's office in 2016 assisted local law enforcement agencies on 32 possible human trafficking cases. Human trafficking reports to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services rose from 51 reported cases in 2013 to 169 in 2015.

January is recognized nationally as Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

[Truckers Against Trafficking Wallet Card | Human Trafficking | Law Reference](https://www.scribd.com/document/336316404/Truckers-Against-Trafficking-Wallet-Card)
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