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## Highway tragedies prompt campaign to alter trucking law

**Drivers' fatigue** a top issue in safety summit opening today in KC.

By RICK MONTGOMERY  
Staff Writer

The crashes transformed Daphne Izer, Opal Smith and other average citizens into activists, who today face off with trucking firms and federal transportation officials during the nation's first Truck and Bus Safety Summit in Kansas City.

Izer, a school nurse from Maine, and Smith, a Warsaw,

Mo., grandmother, both lost family members in crashes involving drowsy truckers. And both are now terrified whenever a big rig appears in the rearview mirror.

The three-day safety summit at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown was called by U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena to bring together federal regulators, trucking representatives, safety experts and activists.

Truckdriver fatigue will be among the more prominent issues, and perhaps the most emotional.

Izer's world shook Oct. 10, 1993, when her son Jeff, 17, and

See **TRUCKER, A-7**, Col. 1



CRAIG SANDS/The Star

Kansas City lawyer Jeffrey Burns is active in the movement to get sleepy truckers off the road.

Behind Burns is the car that belonged to Jeannie Ferguson, who died in a crash linked to fatigue.