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A trucker's drowsiness has been blamed in the July 16 accident that killed Desiree (above left) and Amber Ferguson. Their mother also was killed when their disabled car, parked on the shoulder of Interstate 70, was hit from the rear by a tractor-trailer.



Crash sparks crusade to get truckers to rest

By RICK MONTGOMERY
Staff Writer

Truck-driver fatigue was something Jeffrey Burns rarely pondered until he stood in the weeds along Interstate 70, surveying the effects of one trucker's drowsiness.

The lawyer crouched to pick up items that once belonged to two little girls and their mother, all of whom died after a tractor-trailer smashed into the rear of their parked car July 16.

A roller skate. Some hair barrettes. For days the debris sat in

the mud, 100 feet off the roadway — remnants of a crash so powerful, so sudden, that it reminded one witness of explosions he saw in Vietnam.

Burns thought of his 7-year-old daughter. The toys could have been hers.

"That's when I really got scared," he said. "If this case doesn't scare a person, nothing will."

Burns was hardly a victim, just the family's attorney. But the wrongful-death lawsuit he handled against the Case Corp. truck-
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