

The Hammonton Gazette

Volume 22 • Issue 34

"The Paper of Record"

www.hammontongazette.com

Crescenzo heads up Atlantic Investigations

by Stephen Pistone
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

HAMMONTON—Although he retired from the Hammonton Police Department in 2002, Greg Crescenzo still works hard each day to help keep communities safe as the owner of Atlantic Investigations LLC, a full-service private investigation firm, located at 583 13th St.

Since he established the business in 2009 alongside retired New Jersey State Trooper Joseph Brown Jr., Crescenzo's business has expanded exponentially. In 2011, Crescenzo began receiving many inquiries from trucking companies due to his background in investigating commercial trucking accidents, which prompted him to shift the focus of Atlantic Investigations LLC primarily to matters related to United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) compliance for trucking companies by establishing DOT Trucking Compliance LLC.

Whether it's crash investigations, a newly-introduced commercial vehicle mechanic training program, drug and alcohol testing and NJDOT safety compliance audits for employees of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the United States Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration, United States Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transportation Administration, Atlantic Investigations LLC offers a comprehensive range of services, all with the goal of ensuring that companies and organizations with employees operating commercial vehicles are doing so under the safest possible circumstances.

In addition to Crescenzo, Atlantic Investigations LLC's entire staff consists of professionals with an extensive investigative background and includes several retired members of local law enforcement. Crescenzo said his career as a police officer has given him the necessary tools to build his company and has allowed it to have a solid reputation for the past nine years—and the same can be said for his staff of about 34.

"I wouldn't be able to be in business if I didn't have that. I got all my knowledge when



THG/Stephen Pistone. To purchase photos in The Gazette, call (609) 704-1940.
Retired Hammonton Police Officer Greg Crescenzo is now the owner of Atlantic Investigations LLC, a full-service private investigation firm in Hammonton.

I worked for the city and we've kept our certifications up, and that's what give us the background ... I have a great group of guys; I can't stress that enough. If it weren't for my employees, I wouldn't be where I'm at ... My employees are what made me," Crescenzo said.

Atlantic Investigations LLC currently consults for 47 trucking companies in New Jersey, and also provides safety and compliance services in Texas, Florida, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Connecticut, making it the most comprehensive private investigation firm in the region, according to Crescenzo.

"There's nobody on the east coast that does everything that we do ... We do everything from start to finish," Crescenzo said.

In addition to the many aforementioned USDOT safety and compliance-related services, Atlantic Investigations LLC also provides private armed security at concert venues like BB&T Pavilion in Camden and Festival Pier in Philadelphia; conducts arson investigations (an area of focus during Crescenzo's police career), teaches OSHA inspection and training classes, and performs background checks and medical examinations for various state employees.

Crescenzo is also heavily involved with ensuring that

non-commercial drivers, especially teenage ones, are allowing for safe driving conditions. As a board member for Operation Safe Driver (a safety initiative of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance and the FMCSA), he oversees programs such as "Teens and Trucks," which advocates for passenger vehicle drivers to share the road with commercial vehicles and avoid hazardous driving habits that can cause crashes.

"You see it every day just driving down the road. I'm on the road constantly—everybody is—and everybody is bobbing and weaving in and out, and they don't know it takes two football fields for a tractor trailer to stop," Crescenzo said.

As part of "Teens and Trucks," Crescenzo recently started offering safety classes and courses at local schools that put students in the perspective of commercial vehicle drivers, who often cannot see when a passenger vehicle is driving too closely to them.

"We go to the schools and we teach them. We set scenarios up ... We do a classroom portion where we take them out, put them in the trucks, close the door. 'Look in the mirror, what do you see? Nothing? Well, they can't see you, but the car is right there,'" Crescenzo said.

Atlantic Investigations LLC also observes commercial vehicle drivers for com-

panies while on the road as part of Operation Safe Driver, during which it has the authority to report and cite them for various safety violations, and can re-train them if necessary.

"We'll do observations. Now, we'll turn around and write reports and send them back to the company. We issue driver warnings, and what happens is they'll give the driver warning for the company. The driver will get the one, and we'll attach this to our report. That driver now will probably be taken off the road on Friday, and on Monday, he'll come to a driving class," Crescenzo said.

Because traffic laws and insurance companies' protocols are much stricter on commercial vehicles than they are on passenger vehicles, Crescenzo said there is a constant demand for a company to solicit the services of Atlantic Investigations LLC, and to prevent future safety violations that can result in law enforcement getting involved, which can drastically hurt a company's bottom line and the drivers' livelihoods.

"Our companies that hire us, they want us to do it because they don't want it to get to the police department. So, we're like, 'let's catch it before they catch it' because the driver in a commercial truck is totally different for a car on a driver's license. They have to have a CDL

[commercial driver's license] and if you have what we call one type A violation and a type B violation, you can't drive; insurance companies will not insure you ... If you're on a cell phone in the truck, it's a \$2,750 ticket—\$11,000 to the motor carrier, the owner of the company. That's why they have us out there all the time," Crescenzo said.

Also located on Atlantic Investigations LLC's approximately five acres of land is a training center for drivers of Gold Medal Environmental, a Deptford-based waste management service company that rents its space from Crescenzo.

Crescenzo said Gold Medal Environmental was looking for a centrally-located spot relative to their five division locations and approached him about establishing the Hammonton location about three months ago, which he said has been an asset to the local economy due to the amount of time the new employees of Gold Medal have spent in Hammonton.

"In an average week, they may train 20-25 drivers, which is good for Hammonton because they're here for a full, 10-hour day. So they're going for lunch and stuff like that. They all leave and they all eat off-premise ... They do a lot of training here for their existing drivers. They have guys here every day, so five days a week, there's always people in the classroom," Crescenzo said.

Given the plethora of services Crescenzo provides at Atlantic Investigations LLC and the size of the company's clientele, he said there are some days where he's busier than he was before he retired, but it's worth it because of the strong relationship he has with his employees and his client companies, which continue to increase.

"You get what you put into it. It's enjoyable ... The years combined with all my guys here, you have more than 500 years of experience. Everybody has 25 years of experience, and is knowledgeable and certified ... I surround myself with good people," Crescenzo said.

For more information about Atlantic Investigations LLC and the services it provides, call (609) 270-7821.