What is a "Nuclear Verdict"?
Nuclear verdicts refer to large jury awards, sometimes in excess of $10 million.

The exaggerated lawsuit demands and unreasonable jury awards are harming commercial trucking companies, especially small companies, and raising the costs of insurance.

Lawsuits and jury awards are growing at an alarming rate.
- From 2012 to 2019, the number of cases with verdicts over $1M increased by 335%.
- The number of verdicts between $1M and $2M increased by 300% in the same period.

Average verdict size increased from $5M to over $20M between 2010 to 2018.

Who's winning?
- Attorneys who are targeting "big rig" accidents enticing consumers through TV and billboard ads with claims of large settlements.
- Exorbitant demands and large settlements mean a growing interest in this field of law also leading to an ever-growing consumer expectation of a windfall settlement.

Who's losing?
- Smaller trucking companies not able to afford the time and cost of litigation and not able to afford significant premium increases due to exorbitant settlements.
- Insurers who sometimes choose to settle cases rather than endure long and costly litigation or risking a huge jury award - which is often reduced on appeal but only after another round of extended and costly litigation.
- Businesses, who ultimately pay the price for these verdicts in higher insurance premiums.

If a company has caused harm, that company should pay what's appropriate in damages to the injured party. However, extraordinary and exaggerated verdicts harm businesses, big and small: trucking companies, stores, automakers, and more.

Sources:
ATRI Study: Understanding the Impact of Nuclear Verdicts on the Trucking Industry