



Driving and Avoiding Roadway Crashes

HS04-043E (08-13)

Now more than ever, a vast majority of Texas employers rely upon some facet of the trucking industry for their supplies or raw materials and delivery of their products and services. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) data for 2012, there were 258 work-related fatalities that resulted from transportation accidents in Texas. In 2011, employers reported 3,160 nonfatal occupational injuries that required days away from work due to transportation accidents. For employers and injured employees, a work related roadway crash can have significant medical, financial, and legal consequences. In order to reduce the number of workplace fatalities and injuries, the development and implementation of effective transportation safety programs is essential.

Who is at risk?

Anyone who operates a motor vehicle as part of his or her job is at risk of being involved in a roadway crash. Also at risk are millions of other employees who are not full-time professional drivers that operate company or personal vehicles for deliveries, sales and repair calls, client visits, and many other tasks.

What can an employer do?

Unlike other workplaces, the roadway is not a closed environment. However, employers can take steps to protect their employees and their companies. Preventing work-related roadway crashes requires strategies that combine traffic safety principles and sound safety management practices. Although employers cannot control roadway conditions, they can promote safe driving behavior with their employees by providing safety information and setting and enforcing driver safety policies.



Courtesy of TX DOT - Traffic Operation Traffic Safety Section

Recommended Policies

- Assign a key member of the management team the responsibility and authority to set and enforce a comprehensive driver safety policy.
- Enforce mandatory seat belt use.
- Develop work schedules that allow employees to follow applicable federal and state hours-of-service and motor carrier safety regulations.
- Do not require employees to drive irregular hours or far beyond their normal working hours.
- Adhere to local laws regarding use of cell phones and other electronic devices when operating motor vehicles.
- Implement and enforce a policy prohibiting talking and texting on electronic devices for employees while driving on company business.

Fleet Management

- Adopt a structured and routine vehicle maintenance program.
- Provide company vehicles that offer the highest possible levels of occupant protection.

Safety Programs

- Teach employees strategies for recognizing and managing driver fatigue and driving distractions.
- Provide training to employees operating specialized motor vehicles or equipment.
- Emphasize to employees the need to follow safe driving practices during and outside of work.

Driver Performance

- Ensure that employees assigned to drive on the job have a valid driver's license that is appropriate for the type of vehicle to be driven.
- Check driving records of prospective employees, and perform periodic rechecks after hiring.
- Maintain complete and accurate records of employees' driving performance.
- Consider drug and alcohol testing; at a minimum enforce the policy when required by applicable laws.

This factsheet was published with information from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) and is considered accurate at the time of publication.

The TDI-DWC also offers several free transportation safety publications online at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html>, including:

- Fleet Motor Safety Program;
- Driving at Work;
- Driving and Being Prepared;
- Highway Safety Program in the Workplace; and
- Vehicle Safety Checklist.

The TDI-DWC features a free occupational safety and health audiovisual library. For more information, call 512-804-4620 or visit the agency website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html>.