

# OUR DRIVING CONCERN

TEXAS EMPLOYER TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL



July 2015

Visit our website  
[www.txdrivingconcern.org](http://www.txdrivingconcern.org)

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**Questions?**

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(512) 466-7383.

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## National Safety Council honors Texas employers with 2nd annual traffic safety award

The [National Safety Council](#) announced the recipients of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 2015 *Our Driving Concern: Texas Employer Traffic Safety Award*, presented in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation. The honorees represent employers who have shown outstanding commitment to the safety and well-being of their employees on-and-off the job in the area of traffic safety.

The [Our Driving Concern](#) Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program proudly recognizes the following employers for their leadership and commitment to traffic safety:

- Challenger Drilling, Inc.
- City of Irving
- City of Sugar Land
- Hughes Oilfield Transportation
- MedStar Mobile Healthcare
- Mid-Coast Electric Supply, Inc.
- Nalco Champion
- Saulsbury Industries
- Spectra Energy



The 2015 honorees were selected through an application process that evaluated each company's commitment to promoting safe driving behaviors among their employees. Employee education, training and other activities centered on traffic safety were considered. While each employer demonstrated a notable commitment to traffic safety, the group is diverse in many ways. Applicants ranged from employers with 10 employees to more than 1,000 and from businesses to municipalities.

Recipients will be honored with an awards presentation in their community, as well as recognition

throughout the year.

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### **Schedule a FREE Workshop at your location**

The ODC train-the-trainer workshop teaches presentation skills in conjunction with a traffic safety curriculum to address driver behaviors that are costly to Texas employers. This training is great for HR professionals, safety professionals, supervisors, instructors, and other staff.

For more information or to set up training at your location, contact Lisa Robinson, Program Manager, (512) 466-7383, [Lisa.Robinson@nsc.org](mailto:Lisa.Robinson@nsc.org).

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### **Significant increase in distracted driving crashes**

In 2014, there were 100,917 distracted-driving crashes resulting in 483 fatalities and more than 3,000 serious injuries across the state – a 6% increase across the state.

While many employers have policies banning cellphone use while driving, Texas lags behind many other states with legislation in place to curb the dangerous behavior putting so many on the road at risk. According to the Texas Transportation Institute, nearly 45 percent of Texas drivers admitted to using a mobile phone while driving, even though 83 percent of them agreed that talking on mobile phones while driving is dangerous. [Find out more.](#)

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### **Drug-Impairment: on the job, while driving**

Driving while impaired is a leading cause of car crashes but alcohol is not the only problem. Often overlooked is drug-impaired driving. Drug-impaired driving is not just a result of illegal substances; they can also be caused by prescription and over-the-counter medications like antihistamines and anti-anxiety medications.

A new report by the National Safety Council examines recent court decisions in which injured workers died from an overdose of pain medications.



This report identifies:

- When opioid-related overdose is compensable.
- How to protect your injured workers from potential dangers of opioid pain medications.
- How employers can reduce the risk of compensable costs associated with opioid use or related to opioid use.
- [Read the full report here.](#)

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### **Special Investigation: Collision avoidance systems should be standard on all passenger, commercial vehicles**

The National Transportation Safety Board is calling for collision avoidance systems to be standard in all new passenger and commercial vehicles. The NTSB states in a June 8 [special investigation report](#) that the systems can help reduce injuries and deaths by preventing rear-end crashes.

The agency recommends that manufacturers implement collision warning systems and then add [autonomous emergency braking](#) after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration implements braking performance standards. NTSB also recommends that NHTSA create tests and standards to evaluate the systems' performance and include the ratings in an expanded safety rating scale.

Consumers and commercial fleet owners purchasing vehicles with collision warning systems and autonomous emergency braking can find the [full report here](#).

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### **TxDOT makes Rollover Simulators available**

The roll-over convincer may be a great addition for health & safety fairs at your location. All

TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialists have Rollover Simulators available. For contact information and information about simulator



demonstrations at your location, please [view the brochure](#).

Demonstrations can show the importance of seatbelt use, which have been shown to reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about half.

Air bags provide added protection but are not a substitute for seat belts. Air bags plus seat belts provide the greatest protection for adults.

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### **Rolling out new videos for safety**

DriveKind RideKind, was jointly developed by Please BE KIND to Cyclists and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to promote safe driving practices by motorists as they share Texas roads with vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians. Instructors, businesses and the general public are encouraged to view, download and share the [video here](#).



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### **Parents can turn to apps, websites to help keep teen drivers safe**

Last year in Texas, almost 300 **teen** drivers and passengers (ages 15-20) died as a result of traffic **crashes** in the state, In order to combat this tragic statistic, a number of tech savvy resources are being developed to assist teens and their parents. Read more, including a list of free phone apps to help parents monitor their teen's driving. [Read more here](#).

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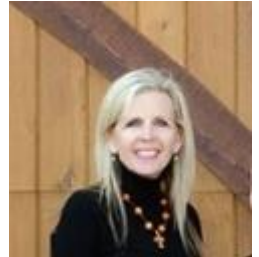
### **The Our Driving Concern Newsletter**

Our Driving Concern is a monthly e-newsletter from the Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program, a landmark driving initiative funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. This initiative is building a statewide network of employer involvement in crash prevention for employees both on-and-off the job.

Do you have a friend or colleague who would benefit from receiving this monthly newsletter? Add them to our email list.

Our goal is to help employers put traffic safety into their safety culture. Please feel free to contact me,

Lisa



Lisa Robinson

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