



**November 2015**

**[NSC Texas Safety Conference & Expo](#)**

**San Antonio: March 20-22, 2016**

The National Safety Council TSCE offers opportunities for safety professionals to connect with the latest safety news, resources and like-minded individuals. [Register now.](#)

**Free Webinars to Fit Your Schedule**

My Car Does What?  
Jan. 15, 2016 at 10 a.m.  
[Link to register](#)

My Car Does What?  
Feb. 19, 2016, 10 a.m.  
[Link to register](#)

**Our Driving Concern:  
Train-the-Trainer**

Free employer traffic safety  
  
Dec. 7, 2015  
Amarillo  
1-5 p.m.  
[Link to register](#)

**Driver Safety Program: One Way to Protect Your Bottom Line**

Transportation incidents are the #1 cause of work-related fatalities. The Texas Department of Insurance says employers can reduce risks faced by employees and their families while also protecting their bottom line by implementing a driver safety program.



TDI says employers should consider four elements of driving safety when developing a driving safety program:

- **The Roadway Workplace:** Consider that vehicle and roadway as an extension of your workplace
- **The Driver:** Be aware of and combat the common causes of roadway crashes and related injuries, including [distracted driving](#) and speeding
- **The Vehicle:** Ensure that vehicles are mechanically sound and operating properly
- **The Environment:** Be prepared for conditions outside the vehicle that might affect your trip

More information is available on the [Texas Department of Insurance](#) website.

**Texas Employers Stepping Up to Curb Distracted Driving**

More and more employers have adopted [cell phone distracted driving policies](#). Now, more and more communities in Texas are acting, too, in an effort to fight one of the biggest causes of injuries and deaths on the roadway.



Across the state, the Texas Department of Transportation says [one in five crashes involves driver distraction](#). Texas bans drivers 18-under from using wireless communication devices and bans all drivers from texting or using handheld devices in school zones. Local ordinances on cell phone use vary.

Jan. 14, 2016  
Houston  
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
[Link to register](#)

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Jan. 18, 2016  
Fort Worth  
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
[Link to register](#)

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Feb. 1, 2016  
Austin  
8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.  
[Link to register](#)

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### Green Cross Awards

The [National Safety Council](#) is accepting nominations for its prestigious [Green Cross for Safety](#) awards presented to individuals and organizations that have advanced safety at work, in homes and communities or in transportation. Visit [greencross.nsc.org](#) to nominate or learn more. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 15, 2016. Winners will be selected in March and honored at a gala on May 12, 2016, in Chicago.

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### More Ways to Connect with Us!

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

Know someone who would benefit from receiving this monthly newsletter?

[Add them](#) to our email list.

Questions?  
Contact [Lisa Robinson](#).

Enacting local ordinances with stiff penalties and fines can help change behaviors, said Deborah Trombley, senior transportation program manager at the National Safety Council.

San Antonio-based Mid-Coast Electric Supply, Inc., was one of the recipients of the [2015 Our Driving Concern Texas Employer Traffic Safety Award](#), in part because company officials implemented a cell phone ban policy.

“By implementing a cell phone ban policy at MCESI, we feel that we have made the roads safer overall, but mainly around those communities,” Human Resources Manager Carla Bowman said, pointing to oil industry areas and some of MCESI’s biggest customers. “We also encourage employees to implement this off the job as well for their safety and the safety of the community at large.”

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### Buckle Up: Best Way to Survive Your Thanksgiving Drive

If it’s over the river and through the woods to grandmother’s house we go for Thanksgiving, keep in mind the roadways will be crowded. And know this: In 2013, [360 people died on Thanksgiving Day](#). Alcohol-impaired fatalities represented 31% of the totals, according to *Injury Facts 2015*, a statistical report on unintentional injuries and death produced by the National Safety Council.



One of the best ways to [survive your Thanksgiving drive](#) is to buckle up, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration. NHTSA reports 58% of those killed in traffic crashes during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in 2013 were unrestrained.

Furthermore, NHTSA research indicates when you wear your seat belt as a front-seat occupant of a passenger car, your risk of fatal injury goes down by 45%. For light-truck occupants, that risk is reduced by 60%. NHTSA says seat belts have saved the lives of more than 100,000 people in the U.S. over the last 10 years.

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### Ready to Embark on Journey to Safety Excellence?



Traffic crashes are the leading cause of workplace death, but they don’t need to stay that way. Let’s work together to reverse these statistics and other important workplace safety concerns. The National

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Keep your employees safe. [Join the Journey to Safety Excellence](#) today!

*\*This is a free resource*

Safety Council has designed the [Journey to Safety Excellence](#) as a roadmap with free tools, resources and ways to connect with others, to help organizations of any size improve workplace safety performance. [Join the Journey](#) today. You do not need to be a member of NSC to take advantage of this great resource.

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## What Will it Take to End the Streak?

To throw down the gauntlet is to offer or accept a challenge. The Texas Department of Transportation is asking residents all over the state if they're ready to do just that – accept a Texas-size challenge.



TxDOT wants to stop the streak of 5,484 consecutive days with at least one fatality on the state's roadways. In an effort to end the deadly 15-year streak – one that dates back to Nov. 7, 2000 – TxDOT announced in a news release it has launched the [#EndTheStreakTx](#) campaign.

TxDOT reminds drivers:

- Buckle up
- Never drink and drive
- Pay attention – put your phone away and avoid distractions
- Drive the speed limit

Employers are encouraged to talk with their drivers about safe driving behaviors and ending the streak. More than 50,000 people have been killed on Texas roadways in the last 15 years. Can you help spread the word?

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## Access Injury Data Anytime, Anywhere

When it comes to motor-vehicle related injuries, how does your company's record compare with others? Want to share the most up-to-date injury statistics with your boss? Or employees? Why not try using the [WISQARS Mobile app](#)?



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated WISQARS Mobile app to include 2013 data from the National Vital Statistics System. The app is available for iPhones and iPads.

The CDC designed WISQARS Mobile to spotlight four preventable public health problems – motor vehicle-related injuries, drug poisonings, traumatic brain injuries and violence against children and youth.

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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  
NSC Program Manager  
ODC:Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program  
[Lisa.robinson@nsc.org](mailto:Lisa.robinson@nsc.org)  
512.466.7383

