

## OUR DRIVING CONCERN

TEXAS EMPLOYER TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL



### January 2014

#### Distracted Driving Resources

According to TxDOT, one in four crashes involves driver distraction.

Drivers who use cell phones in their vehicles have a higher risk of collision than drivers who don't, whether holding the phone or using a hands-free device.

#### Events

[Super Bowl XL VIII](#)  
February 2, 2014  
Fans don't let fans drive drunk

[St. Patrick's Day](#)  
March 17, 2014  
Buzzed driving is drunk driving

[TSCE in Galveston](#)  
March 30 - April 1, 2014

[Alcohol Awareness Month](#)  
and  
[National Distracted Driving Month](#)  
April 2014

[Lifesavers Conference](#)  
April 27-29, 2014  
Nashville, TN

### New NSC's Our Driving Concern: Texas Employer 2014 Traffic Safety Award

The National Safety Council's Our Driving Concern (ODC): Texas Employers Safety Program will honor Texas employers through a new awards recognition program. Traffic Safety awards will be presented to Texas businesses that encourage positive driver behaviors among employees on-and-off the job.

**Eligibility:** Any Texas business/municipality is eligible to submit an application. Companies are nominated or can self-nominate. Companies may be municipal, corporate, private or not-for profit, small or large. Apply now! The application is easy to complete online.

The deadline to apply is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Awards will be presented to these businesses at the Texas Safety Conference and Expo in Galveston on April 1, 2014. Businesses will also receive recognition within NSC ODC publications, listed within best practices and provided with a press kit.

To nominate your business click [here](#).

### Training Opportunities in February

#### Our Driving Concern: Making a Difference Train-the-Trainer

February 10, 2014

Our Driving Concern: Train the Trainer

12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

City of San Marcos Activity Center

501 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, TX

[Texas Department of Insurance 18th Annual Texas Safety Summit Conference](#)  
May 6 - 8, 2014

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Do you have any friends or colleagues who would benefit from Texas traffic safety tips? Forward this newsletter to them and encourage them to [sign up online!](#)

February 26, 2014  
ODC Train the Trainer  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
TxDOT Pharr District Conference Center

600 West IH 2/ U.S. Expressway 83, Pharr, TX

Contact Lisa Robinson to register [lisa.robinson@nsc.org](mailto:lisa.robinson@nsc.org)  
(512) 466-7383

## [2014 NSC Texas Safety Conference and Expo](#)

**March 31 - April 1, 2014**  
**Galveston, Texas**

### [What is the NSC Texas Safety Conference & Expo?](#)

Safety, health and environmental professionals face both new and continuing challenges in the workplace today. In addition, today's busy professional has minimal time to dedicate towards continuing education. Where do you turn to find the resources you need to lead your safety program? The Internet is convenient and far-reaching, but it is increasingly difficult to sort the expert advice from the rest of the noise.

The 2014 NSC Texas Safety Conference & Expo offers a myriad of opportunities for safety professionals to connect with the latest safety news, resources and each other - face-to-face.

All in one place. All in three days.

### **About the NSC Texas Safety Conference & Expo**

The National Safety Council Texas Safety Conference & Expo is an annual event for safety professionals from the Gulf Coast and beyond looking to improve safety in their organization. The conference allows attendees of all experience levels to learn best practices and trends, network in a variety of settings and discover safety solutions from more than 170 exhibitors.

Attendance at the 2013 TSCE conference grew by more than 5%. This growth was attributable to an increase in attendance among safety professionals both domestic and international, who were interested in learning how to resolve their biggest safety challenges.

## 2014 TSCE In-Conjunction Events

**Two free trainings at the NSC's TSCE in Galveston: You DO NOT have to attend TSCE to attend the free trainings, but you do need to [register!](#)**

### [Our Driving Concern: Train-the-Trainer](#)

**Sunday, March 30, 2014**

Motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 cause of unintentional workplace deaths in the US, and most of these crashes are preventable. NSC Texas Employer Safety Program *Our Driving Concern* training program for employers provides a traffic safety curriculum to address driver behavior on and off the job. Materials are designed with an Employer-Employee focus for staff meetings, safety talks, etc.

### [Distractions Driving: Employer Policies](#)

**Sunday, March 30, 2014**

In Texas 25% of crashes are attributed to distracted driving, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. Using cell phones while driving significantly increases the risk factors associated with automobile crashes. This session will address the risks of using cell phones while driving and what employers can do to protect their employees. Participants will receive a copy of the NSC Cell Phone Policy Kit with resources to implement an employer policy.

Dave Teater, Sr. Director Transportation Initiatives  
National Safety Council

Deborah Trombley, Senior Program Manager, Transportation  
Initiatives  
National Safety Council

## Our Driving Concern Training

Our Driving Concern is offering FREE trainings for employers to provide necessary traffic safety information to keep employees safe on Texas roads. Training sessions will take place throughout the state, and we can even come to your workplace to host a training for a group of employees.

We are setting up training dates from January 2014 through September 2014 and looking for locations to host these events. Would your company be willing to host?

RSVP today for one of our free trainings or schedule your own by contacting [Lisa Robinson](#), CFLE, at (512) 466-7383.

### Want a Speaker?

If you would like to invite a cell phone distracted driving victim or a [FocusDriven - Advocates for Cell-Free Driving](#) representative to speak at your next meeting or event, please contact: [info@focusdriven.org](mailto:info@focusdriven.org) or call (630) 775-2405.

### Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving has become a serious problem on our roadways. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines aggressive driving as "the operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger persons or property"-a traffic and not a criminal offense like road rage. Examples include speeding or driving too fast for conditions, improper lane changing, tailgating and improper passing. Approximately 6,800,000 crashes occur in the United States each year; a substantial number are estimated to be caused by aggressive driving.

Opinion surveys show motorists rate aggressive driving as a top threat to highway safety, yet many do not identify their own behavior as aggressive. Crash data shows a continuous increase in the number of deaths and injuries attributed to speed. And the more congested streets and highways are, the more your employees will encounter aggressive and unsafe drivers on and off the job.

#### [Why Aggressive Driving Is Increasing](#)

- Lack of responsible driving behavior - On the road, the focus often is on individual rights and freedom, not on responsibility to other drivers we share the road with. Driving should be cooperative, not a competitive sport.
- Reduced levels of enforcement - The perceived risk of being apprehended for a traffic violation is directly related to the level of traffic enforcement. Unfortunately, many jurisdictions have cut back on traffic enforcement because of budget constraints.

- More travel and congestion, especially in urban areas - Over the last 30 years, the number of miles driven in the United States has increased by 38 percent , while the number of miles of available roads has increased by less than 1 percent. Some motorists find themselves responding to the frustrations of driving in high-density traffic areas by acting aggressively.

## Avoid Becoming an Aggressive Driver

- Keep your emotions in check. Don't take your frustrations out on other drivers.
- Plan ahead and allow enough time for delays.
- Focus on your own driving. Yelling, pounding on the steering wheel and honking your horn won't make traffic move any faster.

The best offense to aggressive driving habits is solid defensive driving skills. Talk with your employees about the risks associated with aggressive driving, and encourage them to adopt safe habits whenever they are behind the wheel. [Sample Defensive Driving Policy](#)

## Resources

[Texas Driving Concern](#)

[TxDOT Traffic Safety](#)

[Current information regarding Texas traffic laws.](#)

[The Economic Impact of Crashes on Employers](#)

[The Great Multitasking Lie](#)

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)

[Distracted Driving Facts](#)

[Distraction.gov](#)

[National Safety Council](#)

[National Transportation Safety Board](#)

[Texas Transportation Institute](#)

[U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

[Texas Department of Insurance](#)

[Safe Hand Texas](#)

[DITTE](#)

[Texas Department of Insurance Safety and Health Newsletter](#)

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Need resources (posters, handouts, etc. to give out? Let me know as I have resources I can send to you to use! Send an email to me at [lisa.robinson@nsc.org](mailto:lisa.robinson@nsc.org) with your complete mailing address and I will ship you some!

### Our Driving Concern Monthly 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.

Because you care about your employees and their families, and keeping employees safe means keeping your business healthy, this e-newsletter provides you with traffic safety resources from across the state. Visit us at [txdrivingconcern.org](http://txdrivingconcern.org).

Please send safety comments, experiences, stories or questions to:

[Lisa Robinson](#), CFLE  
Program Manager, Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program  
(512) 466-7383



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