



November 2014

**December
Drunk & Drugged Driving
Prevention Month**

**December 12-January 1
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
Campaign**

Visit our website for resources
www.txdrivingconcern.org

**Know someone who would
benefit from receiving
this monthly newsletter?**
[Add them](#) to our email list.

Questions?
Contact [Lisa Robinson](#),
(512) 466-7383.

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Keep your employees safe.
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Investigation reveals deadly trend with fracking boom

Huge increases in the number of fatal car crashes in Texas have been linked to the growth of the fracking industry. The number of people who have died in Texas car crashes involving commercial vehicles has increased by [more than 50 percent](#) since the fracking started there in 2008.

The report, based on data compiled by the Texas Department of Transportation investigations, found most crashes taking place on roads that wind through the gas-rich Eagle Ford Shale in south Texas, and the Permian Basin in the western part of the state.

One-in-five fatal crashes involves a drowsy driver

According to new research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, more than one-in-five fatal crashes involves driver fatigue.

Recognize the following warning signs of driver fatigue and take action to avoid tragedy this holiday season: **unable to recall the last few miles traveled, wandering thoughts, difficulty focusing or keeping your eyes open; your head feeling heavy, drifting out of lanes or on to rumble strips, yawning repeatedly, inadvertently tailgating other vehicles, or missing traffic signs.**

Don't wait until it's too late. Try these tips before showing signs of driver fatigue:

- Get at least seven hours of sleep before a long drive
- Drive at times when you are normally awake
- Schedule a break every two hours or every 100 miles
- Avoid heavy foods
- Travel with an alert passenger and take turns driving
- Avoid medications that cause drowsiness or other impairment

Distracted walking

A recent study found that nearly one-third of pedestrians at 20 high-risk intersections in Seattle were observed listening to music, texting or using

a cellphone. Those who texted were four times more likely to display at least one unsafe crossing behavior, such as ignoring traffic signals or failing to look both ways.

There are [many news reports](#) of pedestrians getting injured or even killed from walking into traffic; rather than looking to blame, make sure your drivers are aware of potentially distracted pedestrians or coworkers around the worksite. Also, discourage employees from walking while using a mobile device.

Driving simulators becoming affordable, effective in reducing crashes

Although driving simulators have been around for a long time, the current technology is more sophisticated, takes up less space and more affordable.

Best of all, [it's getting results!](#) Less than a year after adding driver simulators to supplement its extensive driver training program, **UPS saw a 38% reduction in crashes.** And they did it without using a huge full-size truck cab simulator that takes up an entire room.

What risks are your drivers' most likely to take?

At-work drivers are far less likely to be involved in a collision caused by substance impairment or speeding than other motorists, however, at-work drivers are far more likely to engage in other types of [risky driving behavior](#).

Make sure to take advantage of our free resources for promoting safe driving in your workplace:

[Sample Distraction-Free Driving Policy](#)

["No Clowning Around" Poster](#)

["Not Your Dream Car" Poster](#)

["Dead Man Talking" Poster](#)

["This Is Not a Phone Booth" Poster](#)

2014 ODC Employer Traffic Safety Award: Name correction

A correction to one of the recipients of the 2014 Our Driving Concern: Texas Employer Traffic Safety Award was made, following the last announcement. The complete list of recipients with name correction appears below:

- AFC Transportation
- City of Corpus Christi, Risk Management Division
- City of Irving
- City of San Marcos
- Dylan's Drivers
- Region 6 Education Service Center
- Erath Area Office & Erath, Hood & Somervell Maintenance Sections of TxDOT

- Texas Municipal League, Intergovernmental Risk Pool

Our Driving Concern Training Workshops

The National Safety Council's Our Driving Concern: Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program offers a free training program for employers that provide presentation skills in conjunction with the traffic safety curriculum to address driver behaviors that are costly to Texas employers. This training is geared for HR professionals, safety professionals, supervisors, safety instructors, and other staff.

These instructor-led modules are designed with an Employer-Employee focus with behavior-specific modules. Each module includes scripted PowerPoint, video and audio presentations, Facilitator guide, tip sheets, and handouts. After completing the training, participants will receive their own copies of the curriculum for use at their company.

To set up a training at your location, contact [Lisa Robinson](#),
Program Manager, (512) 466-7383.

New program helps managers identify impaired employees

Drug impairment and, in particular, prescription drug abuse, is rapidly becoming one of the most prevalent causes of injuries and fatalities on the job. Can your managers and supervisors recognize when an employee is impaired in the workplace? Sam Houston State University's Impaired Driving Initiatives (IDI) Office is offering a new staff-development tool (a 6-hour training program) to aid your employees in doing just that. To take advantage of this training and for more information, please [visit the DITTE program website](#).

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

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