







Occupational Driving Safety Programs: The Driver

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Driving in Texas

- No deathless days in 2014
- 3,534 people died

	483	people were killed in crashes involving distracted driving
	43.8%	of the people who died in vehicles were not wearing restraints
	50%	of motorcyclists who died were not wearing helmets
	1,041	people were killed in DUI crashes

*Source: Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)



Objectives

- Understand why employers should focus on transportation safety
- Understand employer considerations when formulating an effective driving safety program:
- Learn about available resources to help establish and assess driving safety programs

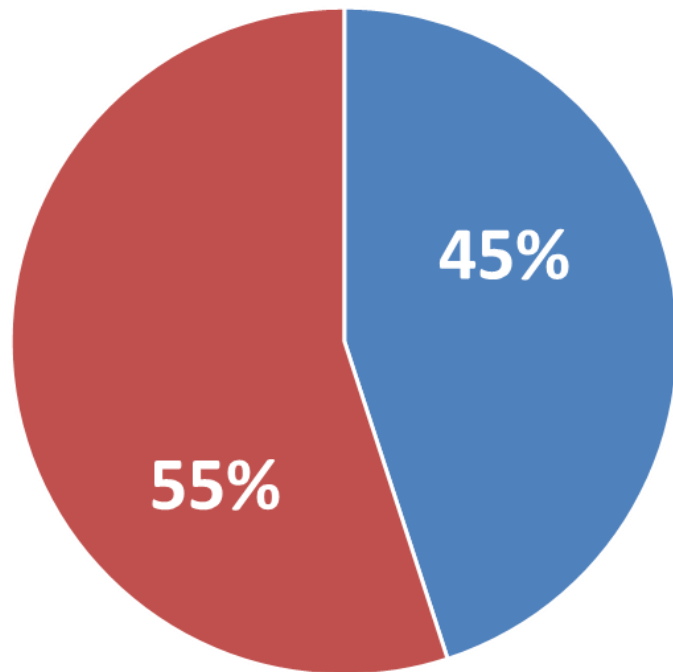
Focus on Transportation

- Transportation related incidents are the leading cause of fatal work injuries
- A variety of industries and occupations require employees to drive or be exposed to hazards associated with driving
- Roadways and work zones are likely the most dangerous part of their work environment



The Statistics

Occupational Deaths



- Transportation
- All Other Causes

- 45% of all fatal occupational injuries in Texas involved transportation incidents (237 out of 524) in 2014

The Statistics

- 57% of the transportation incidents involved occupations other than motor vehicle operators
- An estimated 3,980 non-fatal transportation incidents involved days away from work

Employers Limiting Their Risk

- DWC encourages employers to:
 - Implement effective accident prevention plans that address driving and vehicular hazards
 - Implement and enforce written safety programs and policies for working in and around motor vehicles
 - Review and improve the occupational driving safety program on an annual basis or whenever changes occur

Employer Considerations

- The Roadway Workplace
 - Consider the vehicle and road as part of the workplace
- **The Driver**
 - **Recognize that driver behavior, skills, and physical conditions affect driving**
- The Vehicle
 - Ensure proper vehicle maintenance and operations
- The Environment
 - Acknowledge that conditions outside the vehicle affect travel



Distracted Driving

Seat Belt Use

Impaired Driving

Fatigue

Wellness/Fit to Drive

Driving Training



THE DRIVER

Distracted Driving

- Alert and focused drivers are critical in preventing motor vehicle collisions
- Any activity besides driving is considered a distraction
- Employers should be aware of and incorporate local jurisdictional laws



Distracted Driving (cont.)

- Distractions include (but are not limited to):
 - Use of electronic mobile devices for calling, texting, or watching
 - Eating
 - Drinking
 - Smoking
 - Reading
 - Applying makeup or other grooming activities
 - Reaching for items
 - Focusing on other passengers



Seat Belt Use

- Every employee in a motorized vehicle should wear proper restraint
- In 2014, TxDOT reported 2,587 crashes occurred in Texas where unrestrained vehicle occupants sustained fatal or serious injuries
- Wearing a seat belt helps avoid occupant ejections in a crash; increases chances of surviving by 45% in cars and by 60% in trucks



Impaired Driving

- Driving skills can be affected by:

- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Prescription drugs
- Over-the-counter medications



- Employers should consider drug and alcohol testing for all employees who drive



Fatigue

- Fatigued driving can be as dangerous as impaired driving
- Reaction times are diminished and drivers can fall asleep quickly
- Avoid unnecessary travel or make alternate arrangements



Fatigue

- ***Employers*** should consider effects of working long shifts or evening/night shifts when making driving assignments
- ***Employees*** should understand the importance of getting enough restful sleep



Wellness/Fitness to Drive

- While some driver licenses require medical assessments, any employee operating a motor vehicle should be able to perform the task effectively
- The abilities to see, hear, react, and maneuver are important for safe driving



Driver Training

- Train employees driving on the job in all aspects of the company's driving program
- Training should explain risks of driving and that the vehicle and roadways are considered part of the workplace



Driver Training (cont.)

- Minimum training recommendations:
 - Employer's driving policies
 - Seat belt use
 - Distracted driving
 - Impaired driving
 - Fatigued/fit driving
 - Operating and maneuvering the type of vehicle they will be driving
 - Sharing the road
 - Aggressive driving
 - Defensive driving
 - Avoiding rear-end collisions
 - Avoiding backing and related collisions
 - Driving in adverse weather and road conditions
 - Vehicle maintenance



Assess Your Plan

- Occupational Driving Safety Program Review Checklist
 - http://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/ckl_occdridesafe.pdf

DWC Resources

- Occupational Driving Safety Programs
 - <http://www.tdi.texas.gov//wc/safety/drivesafe.html>
- Workplace Safety Programs and Services
 - www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html
 - (512) 804-4610
 - safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov

Next Webinar in this Series

- Occupational Driving Safety Programs: The Vehicle and The Environment
 - Ensure proper vehicle maintenance and operations
 - Acknowledge that conditions outside the vehicle affect travel
- November 5, 2015
- 10:00 am

Questions?