





# Occupational Driving Safety Programs: The Vehicle and The Environment

Karen Puckett  
Director, Workplace Safety

Texas Department of Insurance,  
Division of Workers' Compensation  
(DWC)

# Driving in Texas

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

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

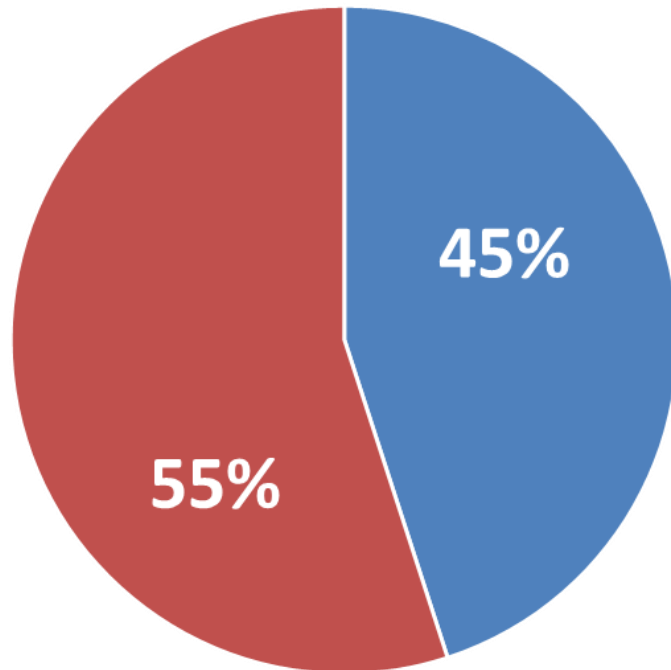
# Focus on Transportation

- 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**





Operating Different Types of Motor Vehicles  
Vehicle Maintenance



# THE VEHICLE

# Operating Various Types of Motor Vehicles

- Employees who drive should exhibit skills and/or be trained in operating the types of vehicle(s) that they use for work



# Operating Various Types of Motor Vehicles

- Employees should understand the maneuverability and capabilities of other vehicles on the road
- Examples:
  - Commercial motor vehicles
  - Utility vehicles
  - Passenger vehicles
  - Heavy equipment
  - Motorcycles



# Vehicle Maintenance

- Employers that provide motorized vehicles for employees should have vehicle maintenance programs
- Maintenance programs include:
  - Inspections
  - Repairs
  - Preventative maintenance



# Vehicle Maintenance (cont.)

- Employers should consider the condition of personal vehicles that employees drive while working



Adverse Weather Conditions  
Work Zone Safety  
Road Conditions  
Other Drivers



# THE ENVIRONMENT

# Adverse Weather Conditions

- Inclement weather affects both driver reaction time and vehicle performance
- Drivers should check weather forecasts before a trip and avoid driving in inclement weather, if possible



# Work Zone Safety

- Vehicles used in and near work zones should have markings and lights to make them visible to other employees and motorists in the work zone
- Work zones should be adequately marked with signage to inform those traveling in or near the zone of what to expect



- Employees traveling through work zones should remain alert to roadway changes and follow all speed limits and directional signage





# Work Zone Safety (cont.)

- Employees who work in work zones are particularly vulnerable to hazards of moving motorized vehicles in roadways and the work zones
- Employees should wear high visibility personal protective equipment (PPE)



# Road Conditions

- The surface, structure, and stability of roadways can cause hazards
- Uneven lanes, potholes, closed shoulders, road grading, and other changes can be dangerous if the driver is unprepared



# Other Drivers

- An effective occupational driving safety program prepares employees for encountering bad driving habits of others
- Anticipating other motorists' actions, avoiding aggressive drivers, and driving defensively help reduce the risk of driving on the job



# Assess Your Plan

- Occupational Driving Safety Program Review Checklist
  - [http://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/ckl\\_occdridesafe.pdf](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](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html)
  - (512) 804-4610
  - [safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov)

# Questions?