



**Calendar:**

[Alcohol Awareness Month](#)

April 1-30

[National Work Zone Awareness Week](#)

April 9-23

[2010 Lifesavers Conference](#)

April 10-13

[Motorcycle Safety Month](#)

May 1-31

[National Youth Traffic Safety Month](#)

May 1-31

[Texas Safety Summit](#)

May 18-20

[Click It or Ticket – Memorial Day](#)

May 24-June 6

[National Safety Month](#)

June 1-30

**13,250**

Safety belts saved an estimated 13,250 lives in 2008 among passenger vehicle occupants older than 4.

*Thank you for making last month's Texas Safety Conference & Expo a huge success. If you weren't able to attend, this issue contains an overview of three sessions presented at the conference. Our Driving Concern also looks ahead to next month's Memorial Day Click It or Ticket campaign.*

**New white paper on the dangers of hands-free cell phone driving**

Distracted driving, specifically cell phone use while driving, has received significant attention lately. While many people understand the increased crash risks caused by drivers texting while driving, the lack of understanding about the dangers of hands-free phones remains a challenge. To explain the limitations of the human brain as it pertains to multitasking, the National Safety Council has released a [white paper](#). Share this information with your employees and other people you care about.

**TSCE overview**

On March 15-17, safety professionals from Texas and the Gulf Coast gathered to discuss the latest safety products, services and trends. The Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program sponsored three break-out sessions with grant funding from the Texas Department of Transportation.

Deborah Trombley (National Safety Council, Itasca, IL) and Jennifer Smith (FocusDriven, Grapevine, TX) presented "Communicating What's Important – Cell Phones, Productivity, and Traffic Safety." They discussed the science behind distracted driving, how organizations are impacted, and Texas companies curbing distracted driving behavior and seeing improved productivity. Smith shared information on victims of distracted drivers, including her own mother, Linda Doyle. Download the [NSC Cell Phone Policy Kit](#) to learn how to keep your employees safe on the roads.

Jerral Wyer (Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, TX) presented "The Bottom Line: What Does Impaired & Distracted Driving Cost Your Company?" Wyer communicated some of the driving-related risks that organizations face, including litigation, fatalities and loss of equipment. He motivated listeners to take charge of traffic safety on a professional and a personal level by sharing best practices to protect your organization and employees.

David Bascom (NuStar Energy, San Antonio, TX) presented "Traffic Safety Policies That Make Sense." Bascom shared steps necessary to write, enact and enforce effective and accepted safety policies and procedures. He shared success stories from his experience and elicited success stories from audience members. Bascom brought sample policies and encouraged use of the [Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program](#) materials.

All three Traffic Safety Sessions were excellent and well-attended. We will begin planning next year's program in the coming months, and invite your comments and suggestions for session topics you'd like to see.

### **Coming soon! Click It or Ticket**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Memorial Day Click It or Ticket campaign will take place from May 24 to June 6. Law enforcement agencies from across the nation will join together to raise awareness on the importance of buckling up and to enact a zero-tolerance enforcement policy.

Safety belts are the most effective traffic safety device to prevent injury and death, according to NHTSA. Wearing a safety belt can reduce the risk of crash injuries by 50 percent. In Texas, every 1 percent increase in safety belt use results in 586 Texans escaping a serious crash injury.

Find [TxDOT Click It or Ticket](#) materials.

### **Safety belts save lives**

A December 2009 [report](#) from the Department of Transportation and NHTSA concluded that passengers who do not use a safety belt are 17.7 times as likely to be ejected from their vehicle when involved in a crash than occupants who are buckled up. Statistics show 35.3 percent of unrestrained vehicle occupants were ejected, compared with only 2 percent of restrained occupants.

As an employer, you should have a safety belt policy that requires all employees to buckle up while driving on the job. The [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#) and [NSC](#) provide resources to get you started.

### **Drive safely on Memorial Day and beyond**

Holidays and weekends typically see increases in impaired driving and fatal crashes. In 2008, an estimated 414 motor vehicle deaths occurred during the Memorial Day holiday period. A new [report](#) by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety concluded that while drunk driving during the weekend has decreased, fatal crashes have not. The number of drivers with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 or higher has not seen a decrease in fatal crashes since 1996. You can reduce impaired driving on Texas roadways by providing substance abuse [resources](#) to your employees.

### **Free materials for Texas employers**

Order innovative payroll stuffers and information cards specifically created for you to communicate with your employees.

[Paper cutouts](#) address the dangers associated with distracted driving, non-use of safety belts and impaired driving. These materials are a great way to communicate the risks of unsafe driving behaviors to employees and their families.

In addition to ordering print copies, you can download, print and share these materials electronically in your own employee communications. To download, click on the PDF link on the shopping cart page.

(Feedback)

*Our Driving Concern* would love to hear your workplace safety success stories, problems and questions. Please send an e-mail to our Peer Advice column at [debby.young@nsc.org](mailto:debby.young@nsc.org) and your story may be shared with other Texas safety employers.

(Links to Resources)

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/>

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety  
<http://www.iihs.org/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

National Safety Council  
<http://www.nsc.org>

Stop Impaired Driving  
<http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org>

Texas Department of Transportation  
<http://www.txdot.gov/>

Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program  
<http://www.txdrivingconcern.org>

Texas Safety Conference & Expo  
<http://www.nsctexexpo.com/>

U.S. Department of Transportation  
<http://www.dot.gov/>

(Boilerplate)

*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 [www.txdrivingconcern.org](http://www.txdrivingconcern.org).

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

Debby Young

Program Manager

Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program

P.O. Box 593

Bedford, TX 76095

(214) 435-3211

[Debby.Young@nsc.org](mailto:Debby.Young@nsc.org)