



Calendar:

[Labor Day Impaired Driving National Enforcement Crackdown](#)

Aug. 20-Sept. 6

[Child Passenger Safety Week](#)

Sept. 19-25

[National Seat Check Saturday](#)

Sept. 25

[Drive Safely Work Week](#)

Oct. 4-8

[National Drug-Free Work Week](#)

Oct. 18-24

[Halloween Impaired Driving Prevention](#)

Oct. 25-31

[National Teen Don't Text & Drive Week](#)

Nov. 21-27

[Tie One On For Safety](#)

Nov. 25-Jan. 1

4.3

Employers in Texas spend an estimated \$4.3 billion each year as a result of on- and off-the-job traffic injuries, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

As students head back to school, August is a great time for employers to encourage and offer training to their employees. When employees receive on-the-job training, they are likely to bring that knowledge home and into their communities to share with family, friends and neighbors. Employers can protect their employees and improve morale through effective training programs.

Pre-Employment Screening Program Webinar

Encourage your employees to listen to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's free [webinar](#) on its Pre-Employment Screening Program, a new national program designed to offer motor carriers and commercial drivers electronic access to drivers' records from the Motor Carrier Management Information System.

A PSP record contains a driver's crash history to help motor carrier employers make better informed hiring decisions. PSP also allows employers to take a potential employee's crash and inspection history into account when hiring. [Learn more](#) about PSP.

Risk Increases When Youth Reach Legal Drinking Age

As young adults head back to college, a new [study](#) from the University of Maryland School of Public Health reports college students are more likely to drink and drive after they reach the legal drinking age of 21. Researchers followed more than 1,000 students during their four years at college.

Results showed:

- 20 percent of 20-year-olds reported driving while intoxicated
- 25 percent of 21-year-olds reported driving while intoxicated
- 43 percent of 20-year-olds drove with an intoxicated driver
- 49 percent of 21-year-olds drive with an intoxicated driver

While freshmen may be more likely to drink more than upperclassmen, older college students may be more likely to take risks due to easier access to alcohol and/or cars.

Prescription Drugs – Another Source of Driver Impairment

Driving under the influence of prescription drugs can lead to driver impairment and crashes. A recent [article](#) in the *New York Times* describes the difficulties law enforcement has in detecting and prosecuting these kinds of crashes. Help educate your employees on the possible dangerous effects prescription drugs can have on their driving ability.

Driver Improvement Programs

Driver improvement training programs are an effective way for employees to change behaviors behind the wheel to prevent traffic crashes, injuries and deaths. Driver training helps strengthen driving skills and attitudes to prevent collisions.

An on-the-job traffic crash costs an employer more than \$24,000. If the employee is injured, the cost increases to well over \$125,000. To reduce the cost on your organization, Our Driving Concern encourages you to offer driver improvement training to your employees.

Check out these training programs:

[National Safety Council](#)

[Network of Employers for Traffic Safety](#)

[FMCSA CMV driver training](#)

Free Safety Materials



[Underage Drinking](#) (.pdf)

[Driving While Intoxicated](#) (.pdf)

These are a few of the innovative information cards specifically created for you to communicate with your employees.

[Order](#) complimentary print copies or click on the above PDF links to download.

Get the Texas Challenge!

The NSC Texas Challenge Injury Facts [quiz](#) is the newest way to educate employees about driving risks. The Texas Challenge provides a weekly question and safety tips directly related to Texas roadways.

Ways to use the Texas Challenge:

- Download and print posters linked in the quiz to hang around the building and share with employees.
- Use the quiz to reward employees for learning about driving risks.
- Share the quiz with audiences beyond employees, including customers, vendors and citizens in the community.

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 and your story may be shared with other Texas safety employers.

(Links to Resources)

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/>

Join Together

<http://www.jointogether.org/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/>

National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org>

Network of Employers for Traffic Safety

<http://trafficsafety.org/>

New York Times

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/25/us/25drugged.html?_r=1

Texas Department of Transportation

<http://www.txdot.gov/>

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

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

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.

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

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