



Calendar:

[Workplace Eye Awareness Month](#)
March

[NSC 2011 Texas Safety Conference & Expo](#)
March 28-29

\$20.3
billion

In 2009, motor vehicle crashes in Texas resulted in **\$20.3 billion** in economic loss.

Source: [TxDOT Comparison of Motor Vehicle Traffic Deaths, Vehicle Miles, Death Rates, and Economic Loss 2003-2009](#)



New *Our Driving Concern* Website to Launch in March

Our Driving Concern is proud to announce the new website for the Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program will launch in early March. The website will help identify traffic safety problems, feature new information for educating employees, and be a regularly updated source for your employer traffic safety needs. Check your e-mail soon for more information and the official reveal next month!

NSC Texas Safety Conference & Expo

Join Texas business and safety leaders at the [National Safety Council 2011 Texas Safety Conference & Expo](#), scheduled for March 28-29 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriot Hotel & Convention Center in The Woodlands, TX. TSCE provides an opportunity to share the latest developments in safety issues, pick up valuable knowledge at Technical Sessions, receive continuing education credit through Professional Development Seminars, and explore the latest products and services from more than 100 exhibiting companies. [Register](#) for the event today.

No Refusal Weekend Programs Extended Year-Round

Several counties, including [Bexar](#) and [Harris](#), have extended the “No Refusal” program on weekends to help prevent drinking and driving throughout Texas. On weekends, judges will be available so law enforcement can obtain warrants to draw blood when drivers refuse to submit to a breath test. These programs began as an effort to curb drinking and driving on holiday weekends, when the problem is more prevalent, but have been extended year-round because of their success.

Teen Drinking and Driving Analysis

[The Dallas Morning News](#) recently analyzed juvenile court records concerning underage drinking and driving and found startling results. Only 11 juveniles were prosecuted for driving while intoxicated in Dallas County from 1999 to 2009, even though roughly 850 kids younger than 17 were ticketed for those offenses between 2004 and 2009. In many jurisdictions, the majority of minors charged with drinking and driving end up with tickets for lesser misdemeanors or, in some cases, have the charges dropped altogether. In the past five years, more than 1,500 alcohol-related cases in Dallas municipal court were dismissed.

News Briefs

- [More Than 1,100 Arrested for DWI Over Holidays](#) – Texas Highway Patrol troopers arrested more than 1,100 drivers across Texas from Dec. 21 to Jan. 1 for driving while intoxicated.
- [Police Officer Struck By Suspected Drunk Driver](#) – A Garland police officer was struck from behind by a suspected drunk driver while arresting a driver on the shoulder of the highway.

- [Chuck Norris: Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Drink](#) – Chuck Norris (“Walker Texas Ranger”) takes a stand against drunk driving.

Free Safety Materials



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

[Underage Drinking](#) (.pdf file)

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

[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)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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

National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org>

NSC 2011 Texas Safety Conference & Expo

<https://www.nsctexexpo.com/index.cfm>

Texas Department of Transportation

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

Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program

<http://www.txdrivingconcern.org>

Texas Transportation Institute

<http://tti.tamu.edu/>

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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