



Calendar:

[Impaired Driving Prevention – Super Bowl Sunday](#)

February 7, 2010

[National Poison Prevention Week](#)

March 14-20, 2010

[Impaired Driving Prevention – St. Patrick's Day](#)

March 17, 2010

3.6

Motor vehicle crashes have a direct impact on employers. The average cost of a large truck crash involving a fatality was \$3.6 million, according to 2005 data from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

A new year is accompanied by resolutions for improvement and change. Now is the perfect time for employers to review organizational policies to increase safety for employees and their families. Consider implementing a corporate cell phone ban or revising fleet safety and drug-free workplace policies. You can have a direct impact on employee behavior and safety. "Our Driving Concern" wishes you a safe 2010.

Policy in Action

Share this [video](#) of oil and gas extraction workers following their organization's safety belt policy. The workers illustrate the importance of buckling up both on and off the job.

Celebrate the Super Bowl Safely

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will be promoting the message, "Fans don't let fans drive drunk," Feb. 1-8, 2010. Unfortunately, impaired driving crashes increase around the Super Bowl. Use the following [tips](#) to keep you and your employees safe.

The Results Are In

A growing number of companies are adopting cell phone policies. According to a National Safety Council membership survey, 58 percent of 2,000 respondents said their organization had a cell phone policy of some kind. Results also showed:

- 469 companies prohibit both handheld and hands-free devices while driving for some or all employees.
- Of those 469 companies, 99 percent reported no decrease in productivity.

[Implement](#) a corporate cell phone policy today.

New Safety Regulations

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is expected to release new safety regulations for 2010, including a [Comprehensive Safety Analysis](#) initiative. One component of CSA aims to reduce impaired driving. It would require employers to enter positive alcohol and controlled substance test results, along with refusals to test, into a database.

Comprehensive Safety Analysis

The December issue of [Safety+Health](#) magazine reports the CSA intervention includes:

I. Early contact

- Warning letter
- Carrier access to safety data and measurement
- Targeted roadside inspection

II. Investigation

- Offsite investigation
- Onsite investigation – focused
- Onsite investigation – comprehensive

III. Follow-up

- Corporate safety plan

- Notice of violation
- Notice of claim
- Settlement agreement

Beyond Policies

Substance abuse can result in unsafe working conditions. Employees engaging in the use of drugs or alcohol on company premises are likely to receive disciplinary action, dismissal or prosecution. [Research](#) by Jeffrey Hon, "Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems," shows that a new generation of DUI education programs, beyond policies, can better motivate offenders.

Save the Date: 2010 TSCE

The National Safety Council [2010 Texas Safety Conference & Expo](#) is scheduled for March 15-17 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott & Convention Center in The Woodlands, TX.

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 PDF 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 it with audiences beyond employees, including customers, vendors and citizens in the community.

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, safety belts and impaired driving. These materials are a great way to communicate the risks of unsafe driving behaviors to employees and their families. To order, click [here](#).

In addition to ordering print copies, you also 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 and your story may be shared with other Texas safety employers.

(Links to Resources)

Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems

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

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

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

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>

National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org>

Texas Department of Transportation

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

Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program

<http://www.txdrivingconcern.org>

(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 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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