



Calendar:

[National Safety Month](#)

June

[4th of July Impaired Driving Prevention](#)

June 20-July 4

[National Ride to Work Day](#)

June 21

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

Aug. 20-Sept. 6

[Child Passenger Safety Week](#)

Sept. 19-25

[National Seat Check Saturday](#)

Sept. 25

472

Estimated number of motor vehicle deaths that occurred during the Independence Day holiday period in 2008.

While summer brings increased travel on Texas roadways, it also brings a greater number of motor vehicle fatalities, particularly around the Independence Day holiday period. Encourage your employees to practice safe driving behaviors this summer, such as not driving under the influence or not using a cell phone while driving.

State of Distracted Driving

Want to find out how Texas ranks against other states with distracted driving laws? [Click here.](#)

Texas currently has the following cell phone legislation in place:

- Young drivers with intermediate licenses are prohibited from using cell phones while driving.
- School bus operators are prohibited from using cell phones while driving when transporting passengers younger than 18.
- Drivers are prohibited from using handheld communication devices in school crossing zones.

Are You Influenced?

A new study, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, reports family and friends tend to have the biggest influence on a person's alcohol consumption. Participants were 50 percent more likely to be heavy drinkers if one of their relatives or friends drank heavily. However, if a "friend of a friend" drank heavily, participants were only 36 percent more likely to do so. The more connections to drinkers – or nondrinkers – a person had, the more powerful the influence was. Encouraging healthy behavior requires targeting entire social networks, not only individuals. [Learn more.](#)

Teens Don't Understand Risk

An alarming [survey](#) of more than 2,500 11th- and 12th-graders found 90 percent believe their peers are more likely to drink and drive on prom night, but few think the behavior carries a high degree of risk. Parents also are to blame. Thirty-six percent of students said their parents have allowed them to attend parties where they knew alcohol would be served. Organizations can join together to encourage parents to be aware of teen attitudes and take action.

The survey was commissioned by Liberty Mutual and the group Students Against Destructive Decisions.

Celebrating 21st Birthdays

More than 68 percent of college students ended up drinking more than expected on their 21st birthday, according to a Southwestern University study of 150 college students. While many students anticipated consuming about seven drinks on their

birthday, they actually consumed 12 drinks. More than half of the respondents reported drinking free shots in bars. [Learn more.](#)

Free Information Cards on Driving Under the Influence



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

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

These innovative information cards are 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)

Annals of Internal Medicine

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

Center for Substance Abuse Research

<http://www.cesar.umd.edu/>

Hands-Free Info

<http://handsfreeinfo.com/>

Join Together

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

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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

National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org>

Ride to Work

<http://www.ridetowork.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>

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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