



**Calendar:**

[Plan Safe Office Parties this Holiday Season](#) - FREE Webinar  
 December 9, 2009  
 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. CST

[Tie One On for Safety Campaign](#)  
 November 26, 2009-January 1, 2010

[National “Drunk & Drugged Driving” \(3D\) Prevention Month](#)  
 December 2009

[Impaired Driving Prevention – National Enforcement Crackdown](#)  
 December 16, 2009-January 3, 2010

[Impaired Driving Prevention – Super Bowl Sunday](#)  
 February 7, 2010

**Q**  
 Last year there were 0 deathless days on Texas roadways. According to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

- 1 person was killed every 2 hours and 32 minutes
- 1 person was injured every 2 minutes and 10 seconds
- 1 reportable crash occurred every 72 seconds

Of these crashes, 975 people were killed because a driver was under the influence of alcohol. In Texas, 28 percent of all crashes involve alcohol.

*In 2008, the Thanksgiving holiday period had 50 fatal crashes and 58 fatalities on Texas roadways. The holidays deliver an increase in road travel and unfortunately, impaired driving. Over the next two months, Our Driving Concern will address impaired driving and other traffic issues to help make the holidays safer.*

**Don't Miss the Free Webinar for Texas Employers!**  
[Plan Safe Office Parties this Holiday Season](#)  
 December 9, 2009  
 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. CST

Holiday parties are a great time to celebrate and have fun, but unfortunately it means more impaired drivers on Texas roadways. Be responsible in your workplace celebrations and set a good example. With careful planning and education, you can keep your employees safe this holiday season. [Register now](#) or call Customer Service at 1-800-621-7619.

**Top Congested Texas Roadways**  
 Many Texans dread traffic as they prepare to hit the road for the holidays. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently unveiled its [list](#) of the state's 100 top congested roadways.

**Holiday Driving**  
 When driving home from holiday parties, be sure to practice safe driving. Always wear a seat belt - the best way to protect passengers and reduce fatalities in crashes. Drive defensively and avoid drowsy driving. Other tips include:

- Maintain a regular sleep to get adequate rest, even on a holiday vacation.
- Avoid driving between 12:00 – 6:00 a.m.
- Do not drink and drive. If you plan to drink, designate a non-drinking driver.

**'Tis the Season**  
 Planning your holiday office party? Keep your workplace substance abuse policy in mind. Remember the improper use of alcohol may expose employers to liability under tort, workers' compensation or other laws. Visit the [Department of Labor](#) for more information.

**Office Party Tips**  
 Serving alcohol at an office party can not only create legal problems for employers, but can also put others at risk. Since public transportation is not always feasible, many employers are opting for non-alcoholic parties. Or, you can try reinventing the office party and partner with a local charity for a volunteer activity. Click [here](#) for more tips.

**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.

To begin the Challenge, click [here](#).

### **Free Materials for Texas Employers**

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

Paper cut-outs address the dangers associated with distracted driving, seat 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 can also 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)

American Journal of Psychiatry  
<http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/>

American Geriatrics Society  
<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/>

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>

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 (TxDOT). This initiative is building a state-wide 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](http://www.txdrivingconcern.org).

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

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