



**Calendar:**

[Tie One On For Safety](#)  
Nov. 25-Jan. 2

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

[Impaired Driving Prevention – National Enforcement Crackdown](#)  
Dec. 16, 2010 – Jan. 3, 2011

**75 percent**

In a 15-year span, organizations with Employee Assistance Programs have more than doubled – from about 33 percent in 1995 to 75 percent in 2009.

Source: Society for Human Resource Management

**TxDOT Holiday Materials**

The holiday season is right around the corner. While this is a wonderful time for celebrating, it also is a good time to remind employees about making responsible decisions behind the wheel. Download [TxDOT materials](#) such as posters and tip sheets to help spread safety messages this holiday season.

**Our Driving Concern Survey Results**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the *Our Driving Concern Employer Traffic Safety Program* survey last month. We always are trying to find better ways to meet employers’ needs. Here are a few highlights from the survey results:

- Most important traffic safety issues for the next three years:
  - driver distractions
  - defensive driving
  - speeding
  - safety belt usage
  - driver fatigue
- Impaired driving policies among respondents:
  - 44 percent have formal policy for on the job
  - 36 percent have formal policy for off the job
  - 11 percent have an informal policy
  - 8 percent have no policy
- Distracted driving policies among respondents:
  - 37 percent ban all driver cell phone use
  - 28 percent ban handheld driver cell phone use
  - 35 percent have no formal policy on distracted driving
- Top three program materials:
  - posters
  - webinars
  - *Our Driving Concern* monthly e-newsletter

We will be taking these responses into consideration as we create future materials. Watch for a new *Our Driving Concern* website to rollout shortly after the new year.

**Employee Assistance Programs Can Help Identify Risky Drinkers**

A broad coalition is working together to get more [Employee Assistance Programs](#) to regularly provide screening and brief intervention on the topic of problem drinking. This coalition created the [BIG initiative](#) (Brief Intervention Group) and found that of people with alcohol abuse disorders, 66 percent work full-time and 16 percent work part-time. This provides a great opportunity for employers to get involved. Problem drinking often leads to impaired driving. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration views screening and brief intervention as a priority for reducing impaired driving.

Read about [pilot studies](#) the BIG initiative conducted implementing a screening and brief intervention and referral to treatment protocol. Findings show an increase in the rate of problem drinking identification by 50 percent or more.

### **Pedestrian Safety: Pedestrians With Disabilities**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that approximately 70,000 pedestrians are injured by motor vehicles each year, and more than 5,000 are killed. To put these numbers in perspective, every 8 minutes, a pedestrian is hit, and every two hours, a pedestrian is killed by a motor vehicle.

Why are blind and other disabled individuals at higher risk? First, most blind people are full-time pedestrians. Second, pedestrians who are visually impaired or who have some other mobility impairment that requires them to use a cane, walker or wheelchair are not as quick in reacting to a careless or distracted motorist. In addition, it may take a disabled person longer to cross a street.

The American Council of the Blind of Texas has produced an 18-minute downloadable presentation, "[Driver Awareness and Pedestrians with Disabilities](#)," to help educate and encourage the driving public to be more considerate and watchful at intersections and other pedestrian crossings. The presentation focuses on how dangerous it is to be a pedestrian, driver responsibility according to Texas law, and tips and techniques on properly and safely yielding the right of way to pedestrians, especially those who are visually impaired.

If you are interested in having a representative from the American Council of the Blind of Texas present at your safety meeting, contact Larry Johnson at [larjo1@prodigy.net](mailto:larjo1@prodigy.net) or (210) 590-6777.

### **Don't Forget: FMCSA Changes In Effect Nov. 30**

On Nov. 30, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will launch its new Safety Measurement System to monitor the performance of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicle drivers. This new initiative was developed in response to an apparent plateau in the rate of decline of fatal crashes involving CMVs. Read the *Safety+Health* magazine [feature](#) explaining how this change might bring a "rude awakening" for many carriers.

### **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](mailto:debby.young@nsc.org) and your story may be shared with other Texas safety employees.

(Links to Resources)

American Council of the Blind of Texas  
<http://www.acbtexas.org/>

Brief Intervention Group Initiative  
<http://www.eapbig.org/>

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>

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](http://www.txdrivingconcern.org).

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

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