



Calendar:

[National Drug-Free Work Week](#)

October 19-25, 2009

[Impaired Driving Prevention – Halloween](#)

October 25-31, 2009

[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

80

Unintentional poisoning deaths are up 80 percent from 2001 to 2006. Surprisingly, working adults, ages 25 to 64, have the highest unintentional poisoning death rate. Alcohol and other drugs can create hazards on and off-the-job, as well as on the road. As a Texas employer, you can implement a drug-free workplace program to increase worker safety and reduce motor-vehicle crashes. A basic program includes having a policy, training supervisors, educating employees, providing employee assistance and drug testing.

2009 Distracted Driving Summit

The first-ever Distracted Driving Summit, hosted by the U.S. Department of Transportation, took place Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Senior transportation officials, elected officials, safety advocates, law enforcement representatives and academics convened in Washington, DC to address the dangers of distracted driving.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood called for the summit to help reduce text-messaging and other distractions behind the wheel. The National Safety Council sent representatives to the summit, including President and CEO, Janet Froetscher; Group Vice President, John Ulaczyki; and Senior Director of Transportation Initiatives, David Teater. To learn more about the Distracted Driving Summit and view related videos, click [here](#).

Our Driving Concern recognizes when a workplace is drug-free, employees are safer, productivity improves and those with alcohol and other drug problems can receive help.

Texas is Number One

Texas remains the nation’s number one state for lives lost due to impaired driving. According to the [Texas Department of Transportation](#), every 20 minutes, someone is killed or hurt in a Texas crash involving alcohol. Alcohol is not the only factor to blame for crashes; drugs also impair a motorist’s judgment, depth perception, coordination and reaction time. [READ MORE...](#)

Hidden Driving Risk

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety recently released a [report](#) on older drivers and medication. Of the 630 respondents, 78 percent used one or more medication. Only one in four were aware of the possible dangers of driving while on medication. Research shows an increase in the number of medical conditions among older adults is associated with an increase in the number of motor-vehicle crashes. [READ MORE...](#)

Is Alcoholism Impacting Your Workplace?

According to the George Washington University Medical Center, nine percent of U.S. workers have absenteeism, higher health care costs and productivity loss due to alcohol abuse. More employers are addressing increases in alcoholism with screening and brief intervention (SBI). Read the full report [here](#).

Also, a Columbia University study revealed a 23 percent decrease in alcohol-related truck crashes per mile after drivers were required to submit to alcohol testing. U.S. law suspending the license of any commercial trucker who has a blood-alcohol level of .04 or higher is also responsible for this decrease.

Obstacle of Concern: Lack of Healthcare Coverage for Treatment

According to data from the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, last year nearly 17.4 million people who needed treatment for alcohol and 6.4 million who needed treatment for other illicit drugs did not obtain it. Read the [report](#) for the reasons treatment was not received.

Many impaired driving fatalities are due to repeat offenders who have a medical problem. One strategy for employers to address this issue would be to provide health care coverage for treatment. This will benefit traffic safety, but also many other workplace safety issues. [Read one woman's story](#) and how her employer intervened.

(Texas Challenge)

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)

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 and your story may be shared with other Texas safety employers.

(Links to Resources)

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

<http://www.aaafoundation.org/home/>

George Washington University Medical Center

http://www.ensuringsolutions.org/resources/resources_show.htm?doc_id=673239&cat_id=963

National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2009/truck-crashes-way-down-since.html>

National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org>

National Safety Council, Poison Prevention

<http://nsc.org/resources/issues/poison.aspx>

Office of National Drug Control Policy

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

Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program
<http://www.txdrivingconcern.org>

Texas Workforce Commission
<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>

U.S. Department of Labor
<http://www.dol.gov/workingpartners/>

(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.

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

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