



## **October 2012**

### [Know When to Pass Campaign](#)

Sept. – Feb.

### [Drive Safely Work Week](#)

Oct. 1 – 5

### [National Teen Driver Safety Week](#)

Oct. 21 – 27

### [National School Bus Safety Week](#)

Oct. 22 – 26

# **1,074**

In 2011, there were **1,074** people killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes where a driver was under the influence of alcohol. This is 35% of the total number of people killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes.

Source: [Texas Department of Transportation](#)

### **Know When to Pass**

Football game days are among the heaviest days for alcohol consumption, and TxDOT is taking the lead in tackling this issue. TxDOT wants to encourage fans to enjoy the big games, but to be responsible when it comes to game-day drinking and [know when to pass](#). Always designate a sober driver if you plan on drinking and if you are impaired, do not drive – call a taxi, use mass transit, contact the community safe ride program or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely or simply stay where you are.

A 2009 TxDOT research report shows that 45 percent of Texans who drink while at a football watching party report driving home. And in 2011, more than 1,400 DUI alcohol-related crashes in Texas occurred on football game days when a Texas team was playing. “Like” the Know When To Pass Campaign on [Facebook](#) and stay up to date throughout the football season.

### **Updated NSC Cell Phone Policy Kit**

Employers across Texas have realized the dangers of cell phone use while driving and are taking actions to make roadways safer by implementing cell phone policies. The National Safety Council recommends policies include both hands-free and handheld devices and cover all employees. Updated in April 2012, the [Cell Phone Policy Kit](#) includes everything an organization would need to implement or strengthen a cell phone ban. The kit includes resources for executives, materials and guides for the implementation team and educational materials for employees, and best of all, it is FREE. [Download](#) the kit and help make Texas roadways safer.

### **Corporate Liability White Paper**

The National Safety Council recently released the white paper, [“Employer Liability and the case for Comprehensive Cell Phone Policies.”](#) which details the potential liability when employees are involved in crashes where cell phone use is a factor. This research includes examples of employers who have been held liable with awards reaching into the tens of millions of dollars, including cases involving employee-owned cell phones and cars and in situations where employees were driving during non-work hours or engaged in personal phone calls. The white paper is free to [download](#) and more resources on distracted driving can be found on the [Our Driving Concern website](#).

### **Drive Safely Work Week**

This year’s [Drive Safely Work Week](#) took place earlier this month, but the campaign materials are great resources for your employees year-round. Visit the 2012 Drive Safely Work Week campaign [website](#) to download the free toolkit and learn about this year’s theme, “Back to Basics—Your Keys to Safe Driving.” Specific topics covered include: passenger restraint, distracted driving, drowsy driving, and fine-tuning driving fundamentals.

**(MORE)**

## **Our Driving Concern Distracted Driving Posters and Brochures**

Visit the *Our Driving Concern* website to download free posters and brochures on passenger restraints to share with your colleagues.

[Distracted Driving Brochure](#)

[Cognitive Impairment Brochure](#)

[Distracted Driving Poster](#)



## **Take 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 employers.

(Links to Resources)

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>

Texas Transportation Institute

<http://tti.tamu.edu/>

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:

Debby Young

Program Manager

Texas Employers Traffic Safety Program

P.O. Box 593

Bedford, TX 76095

(214) 435-3211

[debby.young@nsc.org](mailto:debby.young@nsc.org)