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October 2013

Drunk Drivers Kill More Than Just Themselves

According to TxDOT one in four crashes involves driver distraction. Drivers who use cell phones in their vehicles have a higher risk of collision than drivers who don't, whether holding the phone or using a hands-free device.

Although Texas has no statewide law banning the use of cell phones while driving, many local areas prohibit or limit the use of cell phones while driving.

**BE SAFE.
DRIVE SMART.**

According to the NHTSA, more than 1,700 fatalities and 840,000 injuries yearly due to vehicle crashes off public highways.

[National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month](#)
December (All Month)

[Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. National Crackdown](#)

Our Driving Concern Training

Sign-up to attend the ODC training in Beaumont that will be held at the:

TxDOT Beaumont District Assembly Room
Thursday, November 7, 2013

RSVP today by contacting [Lisa Robinson](#), CFLE, at lisa.robinson@nsc.org or (512) 466-7383.

New NSC's Our Driving Concern: Texas Employer 2014 Traffic Safety Award

The National Safety Council's Our Driving Concern (ODC): Texas Employers Safety Program will honor Texas employers through a new awards recognition program. Traffic Safety awards will be presented to Texas businesses that encourage positive driver behaviors among employees on-and-off the job. awards recognition program.

Eligibility: Any Texas business is eligible to submit an application. Companies are nominated or can self-nominate. Companies may be municipal, corporate, private or not-for profit, small or large.

Information will be released on the [ODC website](#) in November.

Traffic Crashes

Traffic crashes are the number one killer of employees.

Speeding -- exceeding the posted speed limit or driving too fast for conditions - is a factor in 25 percent of those crashes, costing employers \$9.25 billion per year. Approximately 56

December 13, 2013 - January 1,
2014

[The 9th Annual Texas
Transportation Forum](#)
January 6-8, 2014

[TSCE in Galveston](#)
March 30 - April 1, 2014

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colleagues who would benefit
from Texas traffic safety tips?
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and encourage them to [sign up
online!](#)

percent of all drivers involved in speed-related fatal crashes
were under the influence of alcohol.

Employers incur costs for injuries caused by traffic crashes
through medical care, lost productivity, property damage,
motor vehicle liability and wage premiums. To combat the
effects and improve employee welfare, employers are taking
[steps to prevent motor vehicle crashes.](#)

Our Driving Concern Training Dates

Our Driving Concern is offering **FREE** trainings for
employers to provide necessary traffic safety information to
keep employees safe on Texas roads. Training sessions will
take place throughout the state, and we can even come to
your workplace to host a training for a group of employees.

We are setting up training dates from October 2013 through
September 2014 and looking for locations to host these
events. Would your company be willing to host?

RSVP today for one of our free trainings or schedule your
own by contacting [Lisa Robinson](#), CFLE, at (512) 466-7383.

Enjoying Football Game Days

Football game days are among the heaviest days for alcohol
consumption. (University of Texas Study, Alcohol Use and
Collegiate Sports, November, 2007). Starting this football
season, TxDOT is taking the lead in tackling this issue by
raising awareness of the dangers of game-day drinking
across Texas amongst fans and their loved ones.

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.

Distracted Driving

According to TxDOT one in four crashes involves [driver
distraction.](#) Drivers who use cell phones in their vehicles
have a higher risk of collision than drivers who don't, whether
holding the phone or using a hands-free device.

Although Texas has no statewide law banning the use of cell
phones while driving, many local areas prohibit or limit the
use of cell phones while driving.

Aggressive Driving

If you've ever been passed on the wrong side, tailgated, cut off or hemmed in by another vehicle, you've been the victim of an aggressive driver. Drivers may be fined up to \$200 for each moving violation associated with aggressive driving and could spend time in jail.

[Avoid Becoming an Aggressive Driver](#)

- Keep your emotions in check. Don't take your frustrations out on other drivers.
- Plan ahead and allow enough time for delays.
- Focus on your own driving. Yelling, pounding on the steering wheel and honking your horn won't make traffic move any faster.

Large Trucks on Roadways

In 2011, there were 43,945 fatal [crashes involving large trucks](#) and Texas accounts for 11.3% of the large trucks involved in fatal crashes.

Nearly 19 percent of all large-truck drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2011 had at least one prior speeding conviction, compared to 18 percent of passenger car drivers involved in fatal crashes. Eighty percent of the fatal crashes involving large trucks occurred on weekdays. Of those, 72 percent occurred during the daytime hours of 6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.

Employer Liability

Employer liability is a growing concern and source of financial as well as legal risk for Texas employers. [Click here](#) to see what you can do regarding instituting company policies and ensuring your employees adhere to laws and regulations.

Resources

[Texas Driving Concern](#)

[TxDOT Traffic Safety](#)

[Texas Traffic Laws](#)

Current information regarding Texas traffic laws.

[The Economic Impact of Crashed on Employers](#)

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)

[Distracted Driving](#)

[National Safety Council](#)

[National Transportation Safety Board](#)

[Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program](#)

[Texas Transportation Institute](#)

[U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

[Texas Department of Transportation](#)

Our Driving Concern Monthly Newsletter

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 txdrivingconcern.org.

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

[Lisa Robinson](#), CFLE
Program Manager, Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program
(512) 466-7383



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