



**Calendar:**

[Child Passenger Safety Week](#)

Sept. 19-25

[National Seat Check Saturday](#)

Sept. 25

[NSC Congress & Expo](#)

Oct. 3-8

[Drive Safely Work Week](#)

Oct. 4-8

[National Teen Driver Safety Week](#)

Oct. 17-23

[National Drug-Free Work Week](#)

Oct. 18-24

[Halloween Impaired Driving Prevention](#)

Oct. 25-31

[National Teen Don't Text & Drive Week](#)

Nov. 21-27

[Tie One On For Safety](#)

Nov. 25-Jan. 1

**Q**

In 2008, there were no “deathless days” on Texas roadways according to the Texas Department of Transportation. In that same year, a reportable crash occurred every 72 seconds.

*Just as students head back to school in the fall to learn, it is important to remind employees about important driver safety information on a regular basis. Improvements are being made in highway fatalities in Texas, but we can't rest until the number reaches zero. Education is key to protecting your employees and in turn their family members.*

**11 Percent Decrease in Texas Highway Fatalities**

According to the [Texas Department of Transportation](#), traffic fatalities in Texas decreased by 11 percent in 2009, resulting in 388 fewer deaths than in 2008. Several reasons can be attributed to this decrease including increased safety belt usage, impaired driving campaigns, highway road improvements and distracted driving campaigns. Let's continue this downward trend by educating employees at all levels to drive safer.

**New Department of Transportation Final Rule**

On Oct. 1, the new rule on Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs will go into effect. In summary, the DOT is required to follow the Department of Health and Human Services requirements for the testing procedures/protocols and drugs which are tested. Primary laboratory requirements in the final rule include:

- Testing for MDMA (aka. Ecstasy);
- Lowering cutoff levels for cocaine and amphetamines;
- Conducting mandatory initial testing for heroin;

Several DOT testing definitions were brought in-line with those of HHS. Each Medical Review Officer (MRO) will need to be re-qualified, which includes passing an exam given by an MRO training organization every five years. An MRO will not need to be trained by an HHS-approved MRO training organization as long as the MRO meets DOT's qualification and requalification training requirements.

Read the [full rule](#) to be aware of all new requirements.

**Follow TxDOT on Twitter**

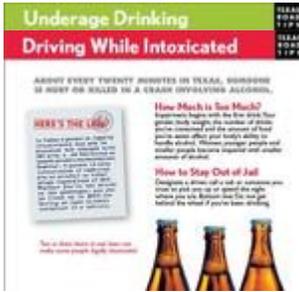
The Texas Department of Transportation now has several [Twitter feeds](#) to provide important travel updates and news to you in 140 characters or less. There are also additional Twitter feeds providing detailed information about ongoing TxDOT projects.

**Drive Safe this Hurricane Season**

Remind employees about the importance of adjusting their driving habits for [weather conditions](#) such as the heavy winds and rains recently associated with Tropical Storm Hermine. These are good times to stay off of the roadways if at all possible. Flash

flooding is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in Texas. Also, be prepared for hurricanes and refresh employees on [evacuation routes](#) to keep them and their families safe in the case of an emergency.

## Free Safety Materials



[Underage Drinking](#) (.pdf)

[Driving While Intoxicated](#) (.pdf)

These are a few of the innovative information cards specifically created for you to communicate with your employees.

[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 employers.

(Links to Resources)

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/>

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:

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)