What are your workplace driving risks?

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of workplace deaths, and pedestrian fatalities are on the rise. Think through on-the-job risks to stay safe around vehicles in your workplace:

• Use crosswalks and designated walkways to stay clear of vehicles
• When working near forklifts and similar vehicles, wear safety vests for extra visibility
• Avoid audio, visual and cognitive distractions to stay aware of the vehicles around you
• Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them
• Report hazards such as wet floors or torn seat belts to keep yourself and your co-workers safe
• Always use signals and lights when driving, and give pedestrians the right of way
• Obey posted speed limits and signs

Whether the driver’s seat is your workstation or your commute is the bulk of your driving time, staying safe on the road requires your full attention. Before getting behind the wheel, ask yourself: what is keeping you from driving at your best?

• Are you fatigued from a lack of sleep?
• Are you impaired in any way from substances such as cannabis, alcohol or prescription opioids?
• Are you dealing with distractions from inside or outside the vehicle?
• Is the weather creating dangerous driving conditions where you are or where you plan to drive?
• Is a personal issue weighing on you or bringing up strong emotions?

Never take your driving ability for granted. Pay attention to the vehicles and conditions around you, and stay aware of potential hazards to keep yourself and your co-workers safe. Everyone is responsible for safe driving in the workplace, whether you’re walking or behind the wheel.