



Brochures You Can Use

- ◆ Distracted Driving is Dangerous Driving
- ◆ Distracted Driving: No Texting
- ◆ Impairment: A Very Serious Problem to Your Business
- ◆ Think Before You Drink
- ◆ Your Cost of Worker's Compensation
- ◆ Behavior on the Road: Attitude Makes the Difference
- ◆ Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes
- ◆ A Workplace Driver Safety Program for Your Company
- ◆ My Son is All I Have Left
- ◆ Telling the Parents: A Trooper's Story

These brochures can be used to help your company better understand the need for, and benefits of, an effective workplace driver and traffic safety program.

These brochures are available by emailing norman.james@state.vt.us or by visiting the Project RoadSafe website: www.labor.vermont.gov (under "business" click "Workplace Safety" then click "Project RoadSafe.")



Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes in Vermont

2011: 54

So far in 2012: 7

Are you next?

Impaired Driving: Does Your Company Have A Policy?

Alcohol and drug-free workplace programs add value to workplace safety and health plans. Incorporating an alcohol and drug-free workplace policy into an overall safety plan makes good sense and sends a clear message to all employees that the company is serious about it.

An investment in preventing an incident from every happening is typically ten times less than the costs associated with a drug or alcohol incident including the prohibition of employees reporting to work "under the influence."

The policy needs to be distributed, read and acknowledged in writing by every employee.

Many employees will support the program if it is implemented in a fair manner that includes procedures that ensure the integrity, accuracy and confidentiality of the test results.

The policy needs to be constantly reviewed to make sure it is timely, relevant clearly understood and enforceable. It should also be periodically reviewed to determine what is working and what is not, and whether changes should be made.

Your company should make sure that its supervisors are thoroughly trained to help administrators determine whether job performance is jeopardized by alcohol or drug use.

Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) not only prevent drug and alcohol abuse; they play a large role in treatment which has shown to allow skilled employees to return to work safely and productively.

Since EAPs, staffed by trained professionals, help employees and management, there should be a collaborative process to find the right EAP service provider.

Your company should promote itself as a drug-free business and that drug testing is a condition of employment. Non-users will want to work in an alcohol and drug-free environment.

The U.S. Department of Labor website (www.dol.gov/workingpartners) has supervisor employee training presentations, tool box talks, fact sheets and supporting materials to help give the program credibility.



The leading cause of death in the workplace is a motor vehicle crash. RoadSafe is an electronic newsletter about workplace driver safety from the Vermont Department of Labor. The purpose of RoadSafe is to distribute data, facts and other materials to help employers create, maintain and/or improve their workplace driver safety programs. Please feel free to use this material in your company newsletters, bulletin boards or employee memos. Your thoughts and comments are always welcome. If you do not wish to receive RoadSafe, please reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Key Findings of the National Survey of Distracted Driving Attitudes and Behaviors:

The survey found that of the most commonly performed, potentially distracting behaviors:

*80% involved talking to other passengers in the vehicle;

*65% involved adjusting the car radio;
*45% involved eating/drinking;

*40% involved making phone call;

*30% using a portable music player;
and

*27% interacting with children in the back seat.

The survey also found:

*55% of men are more likely than women (46%) to use navigation systems;

*42% of men are more likely to make or accept phone calls compared to 39% of women;

*31% of women are more likely to interact with children in the back seat than men (23%);

*30% of men use smartphones for driving directions compared to 21% of women;

*10% of men are more likely to read incoming e-mail or text messages compared to 9% of women;

*8% of women do personal grooming compared to 3% of men;

*6% of men and 6% of women send e-mail or text messages.

Risks

The fact is that we all take risks sometimes; and when we do, we temporarily let someone or something else take control of the situation.

Before you choose to take a risk (and give someone or something else control), you should ask yourself two questions:

- 1) Is getting what I want or where I am going so important that I am willing to risk my life . . . or someone else's life?
- 2) Am I willing to be involved in a crash or get a ticket because I am running late or because I want to get in front of someone, or have some fun?

If the answer is "yes" (even sometimes) to those questions, then you also have to accept the responsibility, results and consequences of risk-taking behavior all the while remembering there generally always is someone at the other end of that risk.

A preventable crash is a crash in which the driver fails to do everything reasonable to avoid it. A good defensive driver is a person who does everything reasonable to avoid a crash or violation.

Is your company a safety-at-risk firm, or does everyone in your company, from the top to the bottom, practice safety in the workplace, including the roadway?

Can You See Me Now? – Tips for Driving in Reduced Visibility

- Keep all lights clean and in good working condition
- Use headlights to help you see and other drivers to see you
- Temporarily watch the edge of the road to avoid the glare of oncoming headlights
- Use your low beams when visibility at night is limited by fog, rain snow or dust
- Slow down on curves and at crests of hills
- Adjust ventilation and defogging controls to keep windows clear
- Increase your following distance from four to five seconds or more

Phone-Related Distracted Driving

About twice as many (77%) respondents report answering incoming calls than making calls (41%) on all, most, or some driving trips.

More respondents reported reading (10%) than sending (6%) texts or e-mails.

Respondents' decisions to accept or place calls or messages while driving cluster around how important they felt the other person or communication was (ranging from 23% to 30%, followed by reasons related to work (14%) or socializing (14%).

Respondents rarely mentioned traffic situations, personal safety, or State laws in their decisions about using phones while driving (1% to 4%).

8th Annual Vermont Governor's Workplace Safety Awards

The 8th Annual Governor's Workplace Safety Awards will be presented on Friday, May 4, 2012 launching the Annual Workplace Safety Conference in Burlington.

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin will present the prestigious awards to Vermont-based companies who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in workplace safety and health.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.labor.vermont.gov and must be submitted, along with supporting documents, by Friday, March 30 to:

Vermont Department of Labor
Worker's Compensation and Safety Division
Attn: Leslie Curtis
5 Green Mountain Drive, P.O. Box 488
Montpelier, VT 05602

This award, created in 2005, for companies in small, medium, and large categories, is also presented as a special recognition for exceptional safety practices reflecting the wide and diverse Vermont work force.

Criteria:

- Experience modification rate of 0.90 or less
- Existence of an active safety committee
- A three consecutive year history of no work fatalities or catastrophic injuries
- Additional evidence of outstanding safety measures such as a significant number of days without a lost-time injury.

Businesses should keep in mind that the workplace is not just in a fixed location, but can also be on our roadways, outdoor locations, as well as temporary sites.

Recipients of the 2011 Vermont Governor's Workplace Safety Awards.



Uniform Speed Limits in Illinois

Truckers who ply the roadways in and around Chicago will soon see new signage setting the speed limit to 65 MPH. Three years ago trucks were authorized to travel at 65 MPH on rural interstate highways; the same speed as smaller motor vehicles.

Speed limits for certain four-lane, divided state and federal highways outside of Chicago and the five surrounding counties are now set at the same 65 MPH. However, the Illinois Department of Transportation will change the present 55 MPH signage to the new 65 MPH as soon as possible, weather permitting.

Officials said the Illinois State Police will enforce the posted speed limits and recommend that truckers observe the posted speed limits until the new signage is in place.





Legislation of Interest

(Editor's Note: The Legislative Update will be posted on occasion to inform the Vermont business community of proposed motor vehicle and roadway legislation that could be important to them. Check the Vermont Legislature web-site for the latest information about legislation of importance to you. House and Senate bills, committee meetings, public meetings, House and Senate Calendars and Journals are posted at: www.leg.state.vt.us.)

Bill Number	Purpose	Status
House		
H.107	Establishes that traffic tickets and video recordings of roadside DUI stops are public records subject to disclosure under Vermont's access to public records statute.	House Judiciary
H.108	Establishes a study committee to consider whether Vermont should implement a mandatory sobriety program for repeat DUI offenders similar to South Dakota's "24/7 Sobriety Program."	House Judiciary
H.117	Restricts night time driving for junior operators	House Transportation
H.119	Requires headlights to be turned on when windshield wipers are in use.	House Transportation
H.150	Bans use of hand-held electronic devices and makes seat belt law a standard law.	House Transportation
H.154	Restricts idling time for vehicles weighing more than 10,000 pounds	House Natural Resources
H.487	Prohibits use of portable electronic devices by motor vehicle and motorcycle operators.	House Judiciary
H.491	Increases penalties for texting while driving to \$250 and 3 points for first offense and to \$500 for second and subsequent offenses	House Judiciary
H.517	Prohibits motorists from operating vehicles on flooded highways and to authorize municipalities to recover the costs associated with adding stranded motorists and moving disabled vehicles	House Transportation
H.520	Requires that at least one of the red or red and white signal lights on a fire or emergency medical response vehicle be visible 360 degrees when lit.	House Transportation
Senate		
S.3	Establishes that traffic tickets and video recordings of roadside DUI stops are public records subject to disclosure under Vermont's access to public records statute.	Senate Government Operations
S.75	Prohibits use of motor vehicle while under the influence of a drug to the slightest degree.	Senate Judiciary
S.81	Restricts idling time for vehicles weighing more than 10,000 pounds	Senate Transportation
S.65	Strengthens penalties for DUI offenses	Senate Judiciary