

Workplace Vehicle Safety



Facts:

According to Building Safer Highway Work Zones: Measures to Prevent Worker Injuries from Vehicles and Equipment [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Publication No. 2001-128], each year more than 100 workers are killed and over 20,000 are injured in the highway and street construction industry. Vehicles and equipment operating in and around the work zone are involved in over half of the worker fatalities in the construction industry.

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Unlike other workplaces, the roadway is not a closed environment. Preventing work-related roadway crashes requires strategies that combine traffic safety principles and sound safety management practices. Although employers cannot control roadway conditions, they can promote safe driving behavior by providing safety information to workers and by setting and enforcing driver safety policies. Crashes are not an unavoidable part of doing business. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has identified steps employers can take steps to protect their employees and their companies.

Construction

The majority of fatalities that occur in road construction work zones in the United States involve a worker being struck by a piece of construction equipment or other vehicle. A worker in this industry is just as likely to be struck by a piece of construction equipment inside the work zone as by passing traffic. Highway and street construction workers are at risk of fatal and serious nonfatal injury when working in the vicinity of passing motorists, construction vehicles, and equipment.

Safe Driving Practice for Employees

The way that you drive says everything about you and your company. Make a positive statement by following these work-related safe driving practices.

Stay Safe

- Use a seat belt at all times – driver and passenger(s).
- Be well-rested before driving.
- Avoid taking medications that make you drowsy.
- Set a realistic goal for the number of miles that you can drive safely each day.
- If you are impaired by alcohol or any drug, do not drive.

Stay Focused

- Driving requires your full attention. Avoid distractions, such as adjusting the radio or other controls, eating or drinking, and talking on the phone.
- Continually search the roadway to be alert to situations requiring quick action.
- Stop about every two hours for a break. Get out of the vehicle to stretch, take a walk, and get refreshed.

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