

U T A H

NETS

Network Of Employers
For Traffic Safety

DARKNESS AND DEER CREATE DRIVING HAZARDS



Why is night time driving so dangerous? According to the National Safety Council, 90 percent of a driver's reaction depends on vision – and vision is limited at night. Depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision are all compromised after sundown. Another factor

is fatigue; drowsiness slows reaction times. Encourage your employees to take these steps to minimize the risks of driving at night:

Prepare your vehicle for night driving.

Clean headlights, tail lights, signal lights, and windows. Make sure all lights are working properly.

Make sure your headlights are properly aimed. Misaimed headlights blind other drivers and reduce your ability to see the road.

Reduce your speed and increase your following distance. Judging the speed and distance of other vehicles is more difficult at night than during the day.

Avoid smoking while driving. Nicotine and carbon monoxide hamper night vision.

If you're too tired to drive any further, **stop and rest awhile.**

Hitting a deer can happen anytime of the year, but November is the month with the highest risk for a vehicle-deer collision. The effects can be costly. Approximately 200 people die each year from collisions with deer, and the economic costs to Americans is more than a billion dollars annually. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that about 275,000 motor vehicle crashes involving an animal occurred in 2005. The Department of Transportation offers the following tips to help avoid vehicle-deer collisions:

Slow down and prepare to stop as soon as you see a deer. Stopping your vehicle is better than taking evasive action.

Notice other cars; slow down if they are behaving differently.

When you spot a deer, watch for more. Deer often travel in groups.

Understand that deer are nocturnal. Deer often travel at dawn and at dusk. Many vehicle-deer crashes happen between 6 PM and midnight.

Do not swerve into another lane to avoid striking a deer. It is better to strike a deer than another vehicle or object.

If you hit a deer, call 911 and wait for assistance.

*National Safety Council, Fall 07
Photo Courtesy Ian T. Edwards*



MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT SAFETY BELTS FOR TRUCK DRIVERS



MYTH 1: Safety belts are uncomfortable and restrict movement.
FACT: A few seconds of adjusting your seat belt at the

beginning of a trip will prevent discomfort. You will also find that safety belt extenders are available on most domestic vehicles. Your local truck dealer can help you locate the correct safety belt extender for your vehicle.

MYTH 2: Wearing a seat belt is a personal decision, it doesn't affect anyone else.

FACT: Not wearing your seat belt can certainly affect your family and loved ones. It can also affect other motorists since wearing a safety belt can help you avoid losing control of your truck in a crash. It's the law; federal regulations require commercial vehicle drivers to buckle up.

MYTH 3: It's better to be thrown clear of the wreckage in the event of a crash.

FACT: An occupant of a vehicle is four times as likely to be fatally injured when thrown from the vehicle.

MYTH 4: It's a hassle to buckle your seat belt.
FACT: Buckling up takes about three seconds. Even buckling up 20 times a day requires only one minute.

MYTH 5: Good truck drivers don't need to wear safety belts.

FACT: Good drivers usually don't cause collisions, but it's possible that you will be involved in a crash caused by a bad driver, bad weather, mechanical failure, or tire blowout. Wearing a safety belt prevents injuries and fatalities by preventing ejection, and protecting your head and spinal cord.

MYTH 6: A large truck will protect you; safety belts are unnecessary.

FACT: In a truck a safety belt decreases your chances of death or injury by up to 50%.

MYTH 7: Safety belts aren't necessary for low speed driving.

FACT: In a frontal collision occurring at 30 mph, an unbelted person continues to move forward at 30 mph causing them to hit the windshield at about 30 mph. This is the same velocity that a person falling from the top of a three story building would experience upon impact with the ground.

Utah Trucking, Issue 1, 2008

MAKE SURE YOUR LOAD IS PROPERLY SECURED

During the 2008 legislative session, lawmakers approved fines of up to \$500 for drivers who fail to secure items on their vehicles that can fall off and create road hazards. Since then the Utah Department of Transportation has begun a campaign to educate the public called "Litter Hurts".

A statewide survey conducted this year by Dan Jones & Associates, found that nearly 80 percent of Utahns reported they had faced objects that have fallen onto roadways. More than 45 percent of respondents reported that their

vehicle had experienced damage because of road debris.



Lawmakers have recognized the severity large debris is creating on Utah roadways and passed Senate Bill 44, increasing fines for littering. The law now requires that drivers properly secure items, with fines set as high as \$500 for lost debris and \$250 for littering. For more information visit www.litterhurts.utah.gov.

Deseret News June 7, 2008

Free Materials Available

Drive Friendly Magnets
 NETS Incentives
 Traffic Safety Posters and Brochures

To request free materials, contact Jessica Hadfield at (800) 933-5943 ext. 303 or e-mail jhadfield@utahsafetycouncil.org

ESTABLISHING A SAFE DRIVER PROGRAM

Every 12 minutes someone is killed in a motor vehicle accident, according to OSHA. Every five seconds, a crash occurs. As many of these crashes occur during working hours – whether they involve employees who drive as a part of their job or who commute to and from work, a driver safety program can be of great benefit. OSHA estimates that motor vehicle crashes cost employers \$60 billion annually in the form of medical expenses, property damages, and lost productivity. The following components can help your organization create a driver safety program that can greatly reduce this cost while protecting your employees.

Senior Management Commitment and Employee Involvement

Driver safety must be taken seriously at every level. Firm commitment from the upper levels of the organization is essential for a program's success. A safe driving culture can be achieved only when senior management sets policies and allocates resources and leadership to the program. Employee involvement is also vital. Engaging employees at every level can help make it a success.

Policies and Procedures

Enforce a clear and comprehensive list of written policies to guide your program. For example, OSHA suggests that companies require all employees to wear seat belts while riding in company vehicles or on company time. Be sure that safety rules are understandable and enforceable. Post them in the workplace, distribute them to all employees periodically and discuss them at meetings to be sure that the message is reaching all workers.

Motor Vehicle Record Checks

Periodically check the driving record of employees who drive for work purposes. For those who have poor driving records, possible actions could include loss of driving privileges at work.

Crash Reporting and Investigation

Establish a crash-reporting process. All accidents, no matter how serious or minor, should be reported to a supervisor as soon as possible and be reviewed to determine the cause. Understanding the root of a crash can help employees learn to avoid them in the future.

Disciplinary Action System

Take corrective action in the aftermath of a preventable crash or moving violation. One way to do this is to establish a “point system”, in which points are assigned for different violations. Corrective or disciplinary action can be taken when a worker accumulates a certain number of points within a predetermined period of time.

Reward or Incentive Program

Reward employees who have a good driving record. Recognition, monetary awards, and special privileges can help motivate employees to adhere to the safe driver program.

Driver Training and Education

Even experienced drivers can benefit from training and reminders of safe driving skills. Periodically offer driver training to all members of your staff – including those with high seniority.

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NETS NEWS

If you would like to submit items for use in the newsletter, send them to:

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To find out how NETS can help your business, call (801) 478-7878 ext. 303 or (800) 933-5943 ext. 303. Membership is free so sign up today!



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