



## Drive Safely Work Week 2015

### Upcoming Safety Observances

Free resources are available on the Utah NETS webpage to assist you with ideas to implement in your organization during these observance periods. Visit [UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG) and select *Safety Programs and Resources* to find a full list.

#### September

- Child Passenger Safety Week (Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>)
- National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month

#### October

- International Walk to School Month
- Drive Safely Work Week (Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>)
- National Teen Driver Safety Week (Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>)
- National School Bus Safety Week (Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>)

#### November

- Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving (Begins Thanksgiving Weekend)

Drive Safely Work Week (DSWW) is an annual week devoted to improving the safety and health of the nation's workforce by promoting safe driving practices at their place of business. **This year's campaign will be held on October 5-9, 2015. The theme this year is #PlanAhead, Your Key to Driving Safely.**

By taking advantage of this opportunity and participating in this yearly campaign, employers are working to improve the safety and health of their employees by preventing traffic-related deaths and injuries in their workforce. The main reasons for implementing the campaign in your workplace are to:

1. Save the lives of your employees, their families and members of your community.
2. Protect your organization from the human, economic and liability costs associated with motor vehicle crashes.
3. Demonstrate good corporate citizenship by making the roadways safer for everyone.

The most dangerous part of the workday for any employee is the time they spend in their vehicle. A motor vehicle crash occurs in Utah every 9 minutes, a person is injured in a crash every 23 minutes, and a person dies in a crash every 39.5 hours.

The 2015 DSWW campaign will help you to:

- Remember to take time to plan the journey—even those trips that feel routine.
- Prepare for driving situations that take you into unfamiliar areas.
- Take precautions to ensure you're driving with a clear head.
- Learn to navigate the changes we all experience as we age and how they may affect driving.
- Think through ways to plan ahead for driving situations that involve family members.

Visit our website [UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG) for additional resources to help with your observance of this campaign.



## Seat Belts: Get the Facts!

Seat belt use isn't just a personal decision; it affects everyone in the vehicle and others on the road. The most common contributing factor to roadway fatalities was a failure to buckle up.

Seat belts are the single most effective traffic safety device for preventing death and injury.

In a crash, unbuckled passengers can become a projectile and increase the risk of hurting or killing others in the car by 40%.

More than half of all people who die on Utah roadways weren't buckled.

People not wearing a seat belt are 30 times more likely to be ejected from a vehicle during a crash. 3 out of 4 people who are ejected during a crash die from their injuries.

Wearing a seat belt also helps the driver stay in the driver seat and helps maintain control of the vehicle.

Seat belts are the best defense against impaired, aggressive, and distracted drivers.

Air bags are designed to work with seat belts, not replace them.

### How To Buckle Up Safely

- Place the shoulder belt across the middle of your chest and away from your neck.
- Adjust the lap belt across your hips below your stomach.
- NEVER put the shoulder belt behind your back or under an arm.

Check out our new video encouraging others to buckle up at [YouTube.com/UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL](https://www.youtube.com/UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL).

## Stay Alert at Railway Crossings

A train hitting a car is like a car hitting a can of pop, according to Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting rail safety education. In other words, the train always wins.

Here are some tips to help prevent railroad crossing crashes:

- Approach railway crossings cautiously. Warn other vehicles behind you that you are slowing down by turning on your four-way flashers.
- Be ready to stop. If you have music or fans on, turn them off. Stop at least 15 feet, but no more than 50 feet, from the closest rail.
- Look and listen carefully for the sounds of an approaching train.

- Be aware that trains can extend at least three feet beyond the width of the tracks. Do not pull onto the tracks unless you are sure there is enough room for your vehicle to clear the tracks on.
- Look one more time in both directions before driving over the track.
- Do not stop once you start, even if the lights start to flash and the gate begins to come down.

Operation Life Saver provides free safety talks to raise awareness around railroad tracks and trains. To request a free safety presentation at your workplace, contact them at 801.310.1035 or [olut@digis.net](mailto:olut@digis.net).

# Occupational Seat Belt Award Recipients



Congratulations to all of the organizations that received awards this year! Organizations that participated in the Occupational Seat Belt Award were honored at the Utah Safety Council's Annual Meeting and Safety Awards Luncheon on August 21, 2015.

Each of the following organizations achieved a 100% seat belt usage rate:

- American Crane Group
- American Water

- Anderson Engineering Company, Inc
- Bodec Electric
- Champion Industrial Services
- Cottonwood Improvement District
- Intermountain Healthcare Courier Service - Salt Lake Office
- JT3
- Komatsu Equipment Company
- North American Industrial Services
- Rio Tinto Kennecott Utah Copper - Copperton Concentrator
- Rocky Mountain Power
- Salt Lake County Aging and Adult Services Division
- Western Big City Companies

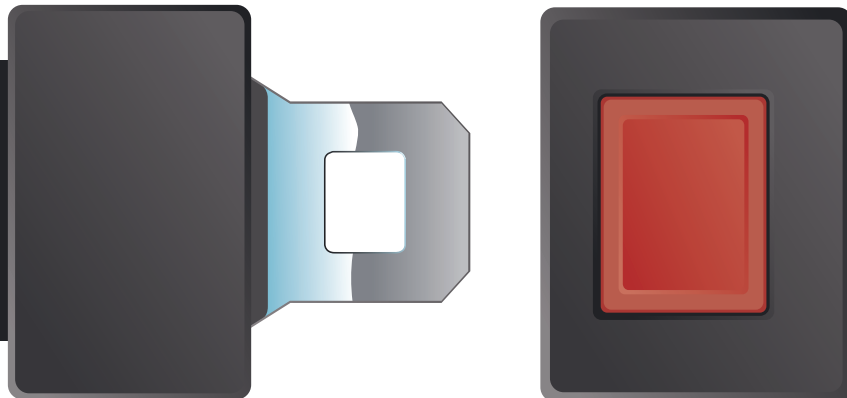
Also beginning this year, in addition to the Occupational Seat Belt Award, Utah NETS and the Utah Safety Council gave out the Most Improved Seat Belt Usage Award to the top organizations that had the greatest increase in seat belt usage. Congratulations to Salt Lake County Parks Operation. They went from 31% to 79%, with a 48% increased usage rate.

These organizations also received an honorable mention for participating:

- Cache Valley Electric
- Harper Precast
- Lighting Maintenance and Service
- Salt Lake City Department of Airports
- Salt Lake County Public Works Operations Division
- Uintah County

Receiving these awards shows dedication to the health and safety of their employees.

For more information on this award, contact the Utah NETS coordinator, Jennifer Williams at [jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org).







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## NETS NEWS

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

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Join us for the  
**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Utah Conference on Safety  
and Industrial Hygiene**  
on October 14-16, 2015



This Conference is designed to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas related to environmental, health and safety issues that affect the workplace, general environment and community.

This Conference will be held at the University of Utah. For more information call 801.581.4055.