



National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

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 and select *Safety Programs and Resources* to find a full list.

April

- National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- Alcohol Awareness Month
- Injury Prevention Month

May

- National Motorcycle Safety Month
- National Bike Month
- Keep Kids Alive - Drive 25 Day
- Click It or Ticket Campaign

June

- National Safety Month

This April is recognized as *National Distracted Driving Awareness Month*. Distracted Driving is very dangerous, not only for you, but for other drivers on the road. Each day in the United States, more than nine people are killed and 1,153 people are injured in crashes which involve a distracted driver.

An estimated 1 in 4 car crashes involve cell phone use. Many distractions still exist while driving, but cellphones are a top distraction for drivers because so many drivers use them for everything.

Hands-Free devices are not risk free. The population believes that if they aren't holding the device everything will be okay. That is not the case because your brain remains distracted.

There are three types of distraction:

- Visual - Taking your eyes off the road
- Manual - Taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive - Taking your mind off of driving.

Fortunately there are several ways to prevent distracted driving and keep yourself safe as well as others. AAA recommends the following tips:

- Fully focus on driving. Don't let anything divert your attention.
- Secure all loose gear, possessions, and other distractions that could roll around in the car.
- Make adjustments to GPS, mirrors, seats, and sound systems before you get going.
- Finish dressing and grooming at home.
- Snack smart. Try to eat meals before or after your trip.
- Secure pets and children before beginning to drive.
- Put aside your electronic distractions. Don't use cell phones while driving unless absolute emergencies.
- If you have passengers, enlist their help in making sure you focus solely on driving.
- If another activity demands your attention, instead of trying to attempt it while driving, pull off the road and stop your vehicle in a safe place.

Sources: NHTSA, AAA, and CDC



Sharing The Road

With warmer weather right around the corner, more and more bicyclists will be out on the roads. It is very important that we share the road with them, not only for their safety, but ours as well. Bicycles on the roadway are, by law, vehicles with the same rights, and responsibilities as motorized vehicles.

The following are great tips to keep you and cyclists safe on the road:

- Expect cyclists on the road. Treat cyclists as any slow moving vehicle.
- Never engage in conduct that harasses or endangers a cyclist. Above all: Be tolerant. Be understanding. Be careful.
- Do not pass a cyclist unless you can see it is safely to do so.
- Watch out for cyclists when you are turning right. Do not speed ahead of the bicyclist thinking you can negotiate the turn before they reach your car.

- Also look for cyclists when making a left-hand turn. Cyclists who are crossing straight through the same intersection in the opposite direction may be going faster than you realize.
- When backing out of your driveway always look to see if someone is riding in your path. Children on small bikes might be hard to see.
- After parallel parking, make sure the coast is clear for opening the car door to exit.
- Cyclists have a rightful spot on the road. Cyclists also positively impact the environment with each revolution of their wheels by opting to ride rather than drive.
- Do not to honk unnecessarily at cyclists. If the need does arise to honk your horn to alert a cyclist that you are about pass, do so at a respectable distance.

Sources: NHTSA and YieldtoLife.org

Drive Friendly

Aggressive driving has become a serious problem on our roadways. 80% of people feel that aggressive driving is serious or extremely serious and risks their safety. More than half of all traffic fatalities occur because of aggressive driving. That is higher than it should be.

Road Rage is a common form of aggressive driving that can include:

- Racing
- Tailgating
- Failing to observe signs and regulations
- Seeking confrontations of others
- Speeding

Despite strong public awareness and understanding, people are still willing to excuse aggressive behaviors. Half of all drivers in AAA's Traffic Safety Culture Index admitted to exceeding neighborhood and highway speed limits by 15% in the past 30 days.

Learn How to Reduce Your Crash Rates



Join us for the Traffic Safety Management Seminar sponsored by the Utah Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS). You can find out how to reduce your crash rates and save money!

In Utah, a motor vehicle crash occurs every 9 minutes, a person is injured in a crash every 23 minutes, and a person is killed in a crash every 39.5 hours. Many of these incidents occur during the workday or during the commute to and from work, yet companies often have few regulations covering traffic safety issues.

Employers bear the cost for injuries that occur both on and off the job. Whether you manage a fleet of vehicles, oversee a mobile sales force or simply employ commuters, by implementing a driver safety program in the workplace you can greatly reduce the risks faced by your employees and their families while protecting your company's bottom line.

The Traffic Safety Management Seminar will provide resources employers can utilize right here in Utah. The seminar is designed for employers and safety managers with or without fleets, because crashes cost employers regardless of when or where they occur.

Professor Steve Thygerson of Brigham Young University will present on how to make a change in your organization to reduce workplace motor vehicle crashes involving employees. Lowell Finney of Salt Lake City Corporation will present on what he has done within his organization to reduce motor vehicle crashes. Trooper Lawrence Hopper of the Utah Highway Patrol will be speaking on the importance of occupant protection for employees.

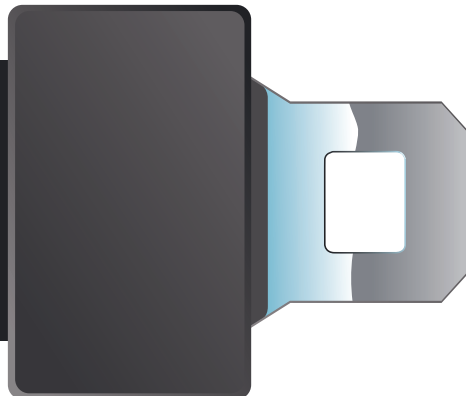
The Traffic Safety Management Seminar will provide resources you can implement in your organization!

The seminar will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm and lunch will be provided. This seminar is FREE because it is sponsored by Utah NETS!

For more information, or to register, please call Jennifer Williams, Utah NETS Coordinator, at 801.746.SAFE (7233), ext. 303 or visit UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG.

**Traffic crashes
are the

1
cause of death in
the
workplace!**





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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NETS NEWS

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

Phone: 801.746.SAFE (7233) ext. 303

Email: jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org

Don't forget to apply for the Occupational Seat Belt Award. For more information, or to download the the application form visit the Utah NETS page at UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG.

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Save the Date

**for the 2nd Annual
Utah Safety Council
Night with the Bees on
June 26th**

First pitch is at 7:05 p.m. More details to come....