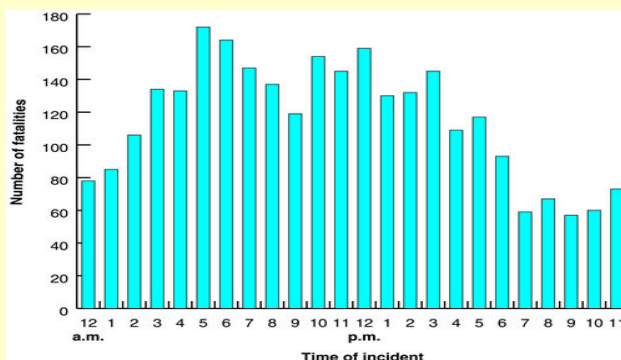
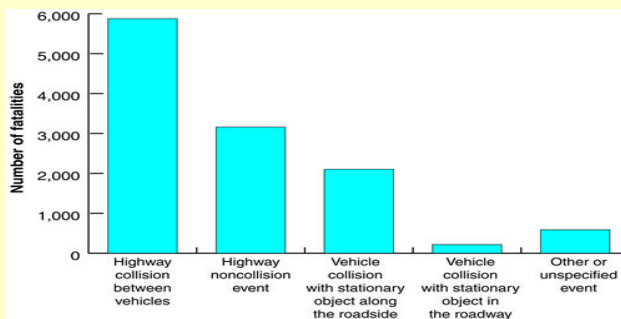


Western Suppliers Association Newsletter

June Safety Topic-Work-Related Highway Crash Prevention

- Prevention of work-related highway crashes presents daunting challenges to employers, injury prevention and safety professionals, and government agencies responsible for roadway safety and occupational safety. The highway is a work environment unlike any other. Employers and workers are affected by external events and environmental changes to a far greater extent than in more closed work settings where the employer can exert substantial control over the work environment.
- To ensure worker safety on the highway, employers must continually readjust operational plans and safety policy in response to events largely beyond their control, such as long-term highway construction projects, changes in traffic laws, changing market and customer demands that bring about changes in transportation patterns and volumes, and changes in government regulations.
- A single employer may have workers operating many different types of motor vehicles, each requiring different levels of training, maintenance, and recordkeeping. Injury prevention and safety professionals must also look beyond their usual boundaries if they are to develop effective methods for preventing work-related highway crashes. In some work settings, there are widely accepted interventions that will prevent injury if they are implemented properly.
- More than 49% of the work-related highway fatalities during 1992–2000 were collisions between vehicles. The second most frequent event type resulting in a worker death was a highway non-collision incident (e.g., loss of control, rollover), followed by a vehicle leaving the highway and striking a stationary object along the roadside. In a small number of incidents, the vehicle struck an object or other obstruction in the roadway—such as a box, log, or traffic control device. Collisions between vehicles were by far the most frequent type of event among automobiles
- **Work-related highway fatalities among automobile occupants by time of incident, 1992–2000.**



Highest Incident times

Mornings:
5:00, 6:00 & 10:00 A.M.

Afternoons:
12:00 & 3:00 P.M.

Work-related highway fatalities by type of event, 1992–2000.

“Between 1994 and 2000, more work-related highway fatalities occurred on State and U.S. highways than on any other type of specified roadway.”



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is your
Responsibility**

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July
12 & 13
Meeting
Winnemucca
Mark your
Calendars**



Western Suppliers Association Newsletter

June Safety Topic-Work related Highway Crash Prevention Cont.

Employers: General Fleet

- Provide fleet vehicles that offer the highest possible levels of occupant protection in the event of a crash. In addition to reducing injury severity in the event of a crash, this practice also conveys to the workers that vehicle safety is a company priority.
- Implement a comprehensive vehicle maintenance program that includes pre-trip inspections for key potential problem areas, Immediate withdrawal from service for any vehicle with mechanical problems, and periodic withdrawal from service for comprehensive inspection and scheduled maintenance.
- Develop delivery schedules that take into account the need for periodically taking trucks out of service for scheduled maintenance.
- Ensure that no worker is assigned to drive on the job if he or she does not have a valid driver's license. The license should be appropriate for the type of vehicle to be driven.
- Maintain complete and accurate records of workers' driving performance. In addition to checks of driving records of prospective employees, periodic re-checks after hiring are critical.
- Implement and enforce mandatory seat belt use policies.
- Communicate to workers that a violation of company driver safety policy is as serious as a violation of safety policy on the employer's premises.
- Where practical, consider adopting a "One Driver, One Vehicle" strategy. Assignment to a single vehicle instills a sense of pride and ownership. Also, a worker who operates the same vehicle each day may more easily identify potential mechanical problems with that vehicle.
- Establish schedules that allow drivers to obey speed limits and follow hours-of-service regulations, where they apply.
- Consider implementing driver safety programs that emphasize the link between driver safety at work and driver safety at home.
- Ensure that workers receive the training necessary to operate specialized motor vehicles. This training should address changes in vehicle performance under different conditions. Examples include vehicles with anti-lock brake systems under differing weather conditions or changes in vehicle stability.

Employers: Fatigue

- Incorporate fatigue management into safety programs
- Provide drivers with detailed information about company policies related to driver discretion in scheduling start times and rest breaks
- Avoid requiring workers to drive irregular hours or to extend their workday far beyond their normal working hours.



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