



May 2017

# Texas Oil & Gas Association Workers' Comp Safety Group

TXOGA Safety Meeting Topic  
from your TXOGA Safety Committee



## New From Texas Mutual e-Learning:

Texas Mutual launched e-Learning, an online safety training tool with 200 video courses and comprehension quizzes, to help employers keep their employees safe. This tool is available exclusively to Texas Mutual clients and can help them transform their safety training. To help employers understand the value of this new tool and get access, click on the top [5 reasons](#) to provide e-Learning.



## NIOSH Resources

NIOSH in conjunction with the CDC Foundation recently launched [Business Pulse: Motor Vehicle Safety at Work](#). This interactive resource can help employers prevent work-related crashes by providing them with information on the human and economic impact of workplace crashes, policy checklists and more. It includes an [infographic](#) that covers the human and economic impact of work-related crashes, making it a useful resource for HR or safety professionals to make a business case for a motor vehicle safety program.

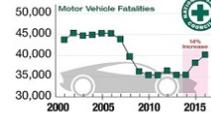


## Put Motor Vehicle Crashes in Reverse

According to the National Safety Council, motor vehicle deaths have been on the rise since 2014. A recent NCS [survey](#) showed that while 83 percent of drivers surveyed believe driving is a safety concern, a startling number say they are comfortable:

- Speeding (64 percent)
- Texting either manually or through voice controls (47 percent)
- Driving while impaired by marijuana (13 percent), or
- Driving after they feel they've had too much alcohol (10 percent).

**An estimated  
40,000 deaths  
and rising**



For the oil and gas industry, motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of worker fatalities and crippling injuries. This is a major industry concern, where workers rely on rural infrastructure that is stretched to its limits by oilfield traffic.

The risk of motor vehicle crashes affects all workers and occupations, whether they drive heavy or light vehicles on the job, and whether they drive to or from their jobs. Workplace crashes have a devastating impact on workers, their families, friends and communities, and are costly. Crashes affect business through lost productivity, medical and workers' compensation costs, liability and reputational damage.

### The greatest threats drivers face include:

**Distracted driving.** Do you require workers to pull over in a safe location if they must text, make a call or use their hand-held device for other purposes such as looking up directions?

**Fatigue and drowsy driving.** Most crashes occur between midnight and 5 a.m. Do you design work schedules that avoid these times and that allow enough time off so workers can get adequate sleep?

**Speed.** Do you factor in on- and off-the-job speeding violations when deciding on driving privileges at work?

**Seat belt use.** Do you require seat belt use for all work-related driving and promote seat belt use in training and safety meetings?

**Impaired driving.** Do you prohibit operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or prescription and over-the-counter medications that could affect the ability to drive safely?

**Bad road conditions.** Do you give workers information about road and weather conditions, and allow them to plan their trip and to stop driving if the weather is bad?

**Safe vehicles.** Do you select vehicles with high safety ratings for your workers? Managing these risks depends on employer commitment to road safety, supported by strong policies that are developed and put in place with input from workers.



## A Driving Safety Initiative from Texas Mutual Insurance Company

Texas Mutual's "[Give Safety a Hand](#)" campaign provides free resources that address the core causes of motor vehicle crashes. Take an active role in making the road safer for your employees with free informational and promotional materials available from Texas Mutual.

Four Tips for a Safe Commute

## NSC Training Resources

The National Safety Council is promoting [Distacted Driving Online](#), an innovative safety course developed by [SafetyServe](#), to change peoples' attitudes and behaviors associated with distracted driving.

## Free Training Resources

Additional free training resources are available at [Oil and Gas Safety](#) and [TXOGA Safety](#).

## Send your Testimony or Best Practice

Please contact us at [jsierra@txoga.org](mailto:jsierra@txoga.org) whenever you have useful information or best practices to share with other members of the TXOGA safety group.

Sincerely,  
The TXOGA Safety Committee  
[txoga.org](http://txoga.org)

### 1. Buckle up every time.

In the U.S., 63 percent of people killed in traffic accidents are not wearing seatbelts. Buckle your seatbelt every time, even if you're only moving the truck to a different part of the job site. Don't go anywhere until every passenger does the same - no exceptions.

### 2. Get plenty of rest.

Driver fatigue is a factor in about 100,000 crashes each year across the country. Your fleet program should limit the time employees can work without pulling over to rest or spend the night.

### 3. Watch your speed.

Speed is involved in about one out of three fatal crashes. Sure, the law allows you to drive at least 65 miles per hour on most highways. In fact, the speed limit on toll roads is as high as 85 miles per hour. But that doesn't mean you should drive that fast. When roads are slick, visibility is poor, or if you are hauling heavy loads, slow down!

### 4. Eliminate distractions.

About 80 percent of people involved in traffic accidents are distracted. When the cell phone rings, let voicemail pick it up. Pull over at the first convenient, safe place, and return the call or text. And remember that your obligations don't end when you put the cell phone down. Avoid eating, changing CDs, reaching for something in the passenger seat and anything else that takes your attention away from your most important job: driving.

For a printable version, [click here](#).

## OIL&GAS

SAFETY ROUNDTABLE

### Roundtable Meeting Notice - June 8, 2017

The next Oil & Gas Safety Roundtable meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2017 at the Texas Mutual Insurance Corporate office in Austin. For further information, contact Scott Bain, Manager Safety Services at [jbain@texasmutual.com](mailto:jbain@texasmutual.com) or (512) 505-6168.

The Roundtable developed this [training program](#) to help you make safe driving part of your company culture. The program covers seatbelt use, distractions, fatigue, journey management, in-vehicle monitoring systems, risk tolerance and defensive driving.



Visit [WorkSafeTexas.com](http://WorkSafeTexas.com) for more information about resources and tools from Texas Mutual.

As a Texas Mutual policyholder, you have access to 2,000 free materials in the Safety Resource Center. If you are just getting started with safety, start by taking the safety self-assessment. From there, use the injury cost calculator, streaming videos and downloadable safety programs to make safety part of your company culture. If you need help or have trouble with the navigation process, please contact Texas Mutual's safety services support center at 844-WORKSAFE (967-5723).

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The Texas Oil & Gas Association Group is underwritten by Texas Mutual Insurance Company.