

Behind the Wheel at Work



Behind the Wheel at Work is a quarterly eNewsletter bringing you the latest news from the NIOSH Center for Motor Vehicle Safety.

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Winter Driving

Seasonal safety. As the seasons change and holidays approach, drivers may face additional risks while behind the wheel. Employers and workers can read this month's newsletter to learn how to stay safe on the road throughout the winter months. [Access previous issues of our newsletter.](#)

In this issue

[New Crash
Facts webpage](#)

[Perspectives](#)

[Safety tip!](#)

[EMS Fact Sheet](#)

[Driving during
holidays](#)

[Working in
Cold](#)

NIOSH CMVS Tweets

It's time to take a fresh look at what employers can add to their toolbox of policies and interventions to protect... <https://t.co/2ka0X2Dt0B>

Any business whose employees drive during work hours should have a motor vehicle safety program in place. Here are... <https://t.co/1mWQ7nv4NO>

RT @NETS_RoadSafety : NETS keynote presenters announced for annual #StrengthINNumbers Fleet Safety Benchmark Conference! Register today a... <https://t.co/Y3T9MavMq9>

[Follow CDC on Twitter](#)

NEW Crash Facts webpage



From 2003-2015 there were over 23,000 work-related motor vehicle deaths in the United States.

Looking for more ready-to-use motor vehicle crash facts? Visit our [Crash Facts webpage](#) to get Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data highlights, check your safety IQ, and download our award-winning infographic.

Safety tip for employers!



If you must drive in bad weather: travel during daylight and with a full tank of gas, stay on main roads, and keep others informed of your schedule.

Driving during the holidays, on and off the job



Along with celebration, the holidays bring increased vehicle traffic. Workers who drive as part of their job may share the roads with fatigued or impaired travelers, and in dangerous weather conditions. Many workers are themselves holiday travelers, and some may be driving a company vehicle approved for personal use.

Every winter NIOSH shares ways that employers can keep their workers safe while working in cold weather conditions. Use the following tips for on- and off-the-job driving, and learn more about working in cold in this month’s newsletter.

- Give workers information about: road construction/closures, bad road conditions, and other driving dangers.
- Provide workers with a driver emergency kit checklist that includes: ice scraper, blanket, flashlight, batteries, flares, jumper cables, first aid kit, bottled water, and nonperishable snacks.
- Set policies that allow drivers to consult with their supervisors to adjust driving hours if they have trouble seeing at night, and to stop driving if they are too tired or the weather is bad.
- Set policies that prohibit operating a vehicle under the influence of substances that could affect the ability to drive safely.
- Give workers general information about the possible effects of prescription and over-the-counter medications on their driving. Your company’s health and wellness program may be able to help you locate and distribute this information.
- Remind workers:
 - Buckle up: every trip, every person. It only takes a second.
 - Do not drive if you are fatigued. Stop and take breaks as needed.
 - Keep alert and aware of your surroundings. Other drivers may be impaired, fatigued, or rushing to reach their destinations.
 - Tell your supervisor when you expect to arrive at a destination, and contact your supervisor to confirm your arrival.

The bottom line: Don’t let safety take a holiday.

Perspectives: Driving in bad weather



Law Enforcement perspective

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There are two skills [law enforcement officers] need to possess while driving in adverse weather conditions – discipline and awareness. With discipline, you need to know what your vehicle can do and what your personal capabilities are. With awareness, you need to be aware of your surroundings, the conditions, and other people’s actions.

Deputy Chief George Nichols
Prince George’s County Police Department, Maryland

Oil & Gas perspective

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Our Road Journey Management process is critical when addressing weather conditions. In this process, the business need for each trip is validated by the driver and manager. Next, an assessment of the driving conditions evaluates the level of risk related to the trip based on both standard and region-specific questions. Trips that are considered to be either medium or high risk are escalated to management approval prior to departure. Included in the process are steps to manage change during an active trip, such as STOP WORK/STOP DRIVING authorization if weather conditions become unmanageable.

Charles Gardiner

HSE Manager, Transportation Safety – Baker Hughes, a GE company

Light Vehicle perspective

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Employers can do a number of things to manage road risk for employees driving in winter weather. Send out brief safety messages that remind them to maintain a safe speed, watch for icy patches and be sure tires are properly inflated. Some employers equip fleet vehicles with road safety kits in case of emergencies.

Joe McKillips

Executive Director, Network of Employers for Traffic Safety

NEW Fact Sheet for EMS Employers



More than 22,000 EMS workers visited emergency departments each year for work-related injuries, according to a four-year study. This new [NIOSH fact sheet](#), co-branded with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, provides EMS employers with recommendations for preventing injuries and exposures among workers.

Follow NIOSH for tips on #WorkingInCold



Every winter NIOSH recognizes ways that employers can keep their employees safe while working in cold weather conditions. Follow [@NIOSH](#) and [@NIOSH_MVSAFETY](#) on

Twitter to receive useful safety tips, and use the [#WorkingInCold](#) hashtag to join the conversation for the next few months.



Questions? Comments? Email kur4@cdc.gov.



What motor vehicle safety topics do you want to read about? Tweet or email us to share your thoughts.

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